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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 182 | THURSDAY AUGUST 2, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

BUSINESS

An attorney for Apple told a jury Tuesday that bitter rival Samsung faced two options to compete in the booming cellphone market after Steve Jobs introduced the iPhone to critical acclaim in 2007: Innovate or copy. ➤ PAGE 13

ASIA

The Philippines received bids Tuesday to explore for oil and gas deposits in two South China Sea areas also claimed by China, which already had protested the potential contracts as an infringement on its territorial rights. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE

In a world more to his liking, Gore Vidal might have been president, or even king. He had an aristocrat's bearing–tall, handsome and composed–and an authoritative baritone ideal for summoning an aide or courtier. ➤ PAGE 19

AG Buckingham resigns

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham is stepping down from his post for family reasons, and he said he's leaving knowing that the Office of the Attorney General has accomplished a lot in the last three years amid controversies involving other agencies, contracts and politics.

Buckingham's planned last day of work is this Friday, Aug. 3.

He will be taking his 30-day annual leave, with the approval of the governor, whom he had been talking with for months regarding his planned resignation. He said he and the governor kept the resignation secret until the last minute to ensure that the OAG continues to function

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham gestures as he answers questions about his resignation for family reasons, at his office on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. His last day of work is on Friday, after three years serving as attorney general and a total of nine years with the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

Senate asks changes to Kilili's HR 1466 for IRs of US citizens

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Improved status for long-term alien workers also sought

The CNMI Senate is seeking changes to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill seeking a grant of CNMI-only resident status to four groups of people, to impose certain conditions on the eligibility of foreign immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, as well as to include a provision seeking to grant improved immigration status to foreign workers who have been in

See HR 1466 on Page 4

US govt files indictment vs WPS principal Weindl

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An indictment was filed in federal court on Tuesday against Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl who has been in detention since June 2012 for allegedly using a netbook to review several child pornographic materials.

Weindl

The indictment charged the 57-year-old Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography, and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography.

The defendant's arraignment will be on Friday at 9am at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

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Senate holds off action on POB initiative, $114M budget bill. PAGE 2
Fitial names new DPL, DPW acting secretaries. PAGE 3

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Local

Senate holds off action on POB initiative, $114M budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Citing more time needed for review, a seeming "tradeoff" with the House and ensuring sufficient number of votes, the Senate held off acting on two major measures yesterday—the fiscal year 2013's $114 million budget bill and the pension obligation bond legislative initiative.

The POB initiative, if it passes the Legislature, only allows the question to be placed on the Nov. 6 ballot for voter ratification.

If it is approved by voters, it does not require automatic floating of bonds to help pay the government's over $320 million debt to the NMI Retirement Fund but is only an "option" for the government to meet its obligation, senators said as they took turns commenting on the POB initiative.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said during yesterday afternoon's session that here might not be enough votes to pass the pension obligation bond initiative, which he said needs three-fourths "yes" vote from the members present and voting to pass.

At the time of discussion on the POB initiative, only seven senators were in the chamber. Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) already left the session, while Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) was absent. Manglona said six "yes" votes are needed.

But more than the numbers issue, Manglona said in a later interview that the POB initiative, even if passed by the Legislature, might be voted down again by voters because there is nothing that guarantees the government will be able to set aside money to repay the loan.

The Senate president, during the session, reiterated his call for the House to act on any of the Senate initiatives seeking to help the Fund so that voters will have the confidence that the government will have additional sources of revenue to repay any loan in connection with the POB initiative.

Manglona said the Senate will wait for the House to act on the Senate Fund initiatives before the Senate could vote on the POB initiative.

"I hope they act on any of that initiative before the Aug. 8 deadline for filing legislative initiatives. If the Senate needs to call an emergency session, we will do that, to pass the POB initiative," he said.

The House will hold a session on Friday.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the CNMI's credit standing is not currently good right now but despite her concerns, she said she will vote yes to the POB initiative because the government has a long-standing obligation to the Fund.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) raised concerns several times as to how the CNMI will be able to repay the loan.

He said it is "shameful" that the government will go back to the people to help solve the Fund crisis that was the doing of the government and its past and present officials.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) said whether or not the Senate passes the POB initiative, the government still has to pay its debt to the Fund. Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) echoed this.

The Senate also held off a vote on the FY 2013 budget bill as Taimanao's Fiscal Affairs Committee has yet to wrap up its review of the bill and meetings with key agencies.

If no budget measure is passed and enacted by Oct. 1, the government will have to temporarily shut down until there's a budget law.

Manglona: Davis offers no new evidence and cites no new law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday denied the request of John H. Davis Jr. to reconsider its decision that dismissed for lack of jurisdiction his lawsuit that seeks to stop the Commonwealth Election Commission from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote on any issue regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or on any other issues.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that reconsideration of a judgment under Rule 59(e) is appropriate if the district court is presented with newly discovered evidence, committed clear error or rendered a manifestly unjust decision, of if there has been an intervening change in controlling law.

Manglona said Davis offers no new evidence and does not point to any new law.

"The arguments that Davis makes in his motion are the same ones that he made in defending against dismissal and which the court considered in reaching its judgment," she said.

The judge said Davis makes no showing that the judgment was clearly erroneous.

"He suffers no manifest injustice because, as indicated in the order of dismissal, he may refile a complaint and obtain a decision on the merits once an Article XII petition is on the ballot. At that time, he likely will be able to show that he has an imminent injury in fact for purposes of standing, and the matter will be ripe," Manglona said.

Davis in the motion requested Manglona to amend her judgment of June 26, 2012 and instead decide the case on the merits.

Attorney Jeanne H. Rayphand, counsel for Davis, said Manglona should reconsider her decision to "correct clear legal error and prevent manifest injustice."

Rayphand said the court has the duty and obligation to protect the fundamental rights of the U.S. citizens.

The lawyer said the right to vote is a fundamental right in the CNMI.

"This court should protect the right of every United States citizen to participate in elections on an equal basis with other citizens in the Commonwealth," she said.

On June 26, Manglona ruled that the dismissal of the lawsuit is without prejudice as she has not reached the merits.

Dismissal without prejudice is when a case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

Article 12 limits land ownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent.

UOG Fall registration set

Registration is currently open to all current and returning students of the University of Guam from Aug. 2 to 3.

New students can register online at www.applyweb.com/apply/guam until Aug. 2.

New students who have applied for admission and have been accepted can register from Aug. 7 to 10. Late registration is on Aug. 10, 13, & 14.

Weekday classes begin Aug. 15 and Saturday classes begin Aug. 18. Final payment for Fall 2012 Registration must be received by 4pm on Aug. 23.

English and Math Placement Tests

Students planning to register for Fall 2012 at the University of Guam must take the English and Math Placement Tests on Saturday, Aug. 4 beginning at 8:30am (check-in is at 8am).

Students must bring a photo ID and payment receipt from their admissions application and should plan to arrive 20 minutes early for check-in.

For more information visit www.uog.edu or call Admissions and Records at 735-2202/6. ***(UOG)***

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Fitial names new DPL, DPW acting secretaries

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R Fitial named yesterday new acting secretaries for the Departments of Public Lands and Public Works yesterday, and is expected to name a new acting commissioner for the Department of Public Safety today.

This comes as the 90-day appointments for the three posts had lapsed weeks ago, needing new appointees either in acting or permanent capacity.

Fitial named Ramon S. Salas, director of DPL's Land Claims, as acting DPL secretary "effective immediately." Salas replaces Pedro Itibus, who has been acting DPL secretary since March when the governor removed Oscar Babauta.

In his Aug. 1 memo, the governor also designated Antonio Camacho, director of DPW's Technical Services Division, as acting DPW secretary. Camacho replaces Vicente B. Castro, who was acting DPW secretary since the governor removed Martin Sablan.

Both Babauta and Sablan didn't follow Fitial to the Republican Party. The two remained with the Covenant Party, whose titular head now is Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the designation for acting DPS commissioner is expected today.

Fitial named DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro as acting commissioner for both DPS and Department of Corrections in March when the governor placed then DPS commissioner Ray Mafnas on administrative leave over complaints against his conduct and leadership, among other things.

Fitial reinstated Mafnas as DOC commissioner but not as DPS commissioner, a post that Ogumoro has since held in an acting capacity.

Inos, when he was acting governor last week, told *Saipan Tribune* he was reviewing the appointments to see whether the 90-day appointments for the three officials had already lapsed. At the minimum, he said, he wanted to make sure the actions of the designated officials are "official and valid, or legal and binding."

Fitial also asked for and received the resignation of his deputy special assistant for administration Joseph "Joe" C. Villagomez on Monday. Villagomez is the acting chair of the Covenant Party's Precinct 3 club. His wife Emma is the Covenant Party's treasurer, and their son Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) has also not followed the governor to the GOP.

Woman who attacked husband with hot frying pan found guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Superior Court jury yesterday rendered a guilty verdict to a woman accused of attacking her then common-law husband with a hot frying pan.

After deliberating for less than four hours, the six jurors reached a unanimous verdict finding Carmelita Guiao guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos, who presided over the misdemeanor charges, found the 33-year-old Guiao guilty as to the charges of assault, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Inos found the defendant not guilty as to four counts of disturbing the peace involving minors.

Inos set the sentencing for Sept. 18, 2012 at 9am. He remanded the defendant to the Department of Corrections.

When the verdict was announced at 4:55pm, Guiao appeared emotionless as she stood beside her counsels—assistant public defenders Matt Meyer and Daniel Guidotti.

After the jurors, Inos, and prosecutors Shelli Neal and James McAllister left the courtroom, Guiao started crying on her seat.

"Oh my God!" Guiao yelled as she was crying aloud and hugging tightly her sister and three minor sons, who were also in tears. Her father was seen comforting the children.

Police said that, on Dec. 31, 2011 the common-law husband arrived at the house of Guiao at Sugar King Estate and saw Guaio eating breakfast while their children have not been fed.

The victim got upset and decided to cook breakfast for the children. Guiao then repeatedly hit the husband with a hot frying pan. The victim tried to protect himself with his arms.

Police said the victim suffered bruises and burns on his arms.

Police said Guiao also set her husband's shoe on fire and tried to flush the shoe down the toilet. A police officer smelled a strong odor of alcoholic beverages in both Guiao and the victim.

The victim admitted that the night before the incident, he and Guiao had been drinking.

The defense counsel asserted that Guiao was acting only on self defense as the husband was assaulting her.

Assistant public defender Guidotti stated in court that the former common-law husband assaulted Guiao and that "in fact the bad actor here is not Guiao" but the alleged victim.

The trial began on Monday.

Late Army specialist's remains arriving on Saturday

» Father: Relieved to receive my son's body soon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian resident Francisco "Frank" Mendiola said yesterday that the remains of his son, the late U.S. Army Specialist Hanson Mendiola, are expected to arrive on Tinian on Saturday afternoon. The burial on Tinian is set for Tuesday, the father said.

"I feel relieved that I will be able to receive my son's body soon," the father told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

He said the U.S. Army will be sending a representative to Tinian, and he expects that the results of the Army investigation will then be revealed to the family.

"We don't have the results (of the investigation) yet. Right now I just want to receive my son's body," the 49-year-old father said. The son was 29 years old.

Frank Mendiola describes his son as a "loving, respectful, and kind" person. Other community members have the same things to say about the late Army specialist who passed away in Corpus Christi, Texas on July 22.

The younger Mendiola joined the U.S. Army some four years ago, after teaching at Tinian High School for some two years. The father said his son graduated valedictorian in high school, and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Western Oregon University. He was stationed in South Korea for a year before going back to Fort Meade in Maryland. At the time of his death, he was on rest and recreation in Texas, the father said.

The late Army specialist was born on March 18, 1983, to parents Francisco "Frank" Mendiola and Erlinda Sangalang-Mendiola.

A nightly rosary is being held at San Jose Church on Tinian at 8pm.

On Tuesday, the body will be brought from the father's house to the church at 8am for Mass. Burial will follow.

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Vanuatu harbor raid on yacht yields controversial findings

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Vanuatu's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement yesterday to clarify some of the issues raised on yesterday's front page of the Daily Post about the status of Mr. Anh Quan Saken, alleged owner of the mega yacht "Phocea," stating that he is not an Honorary Consul of Vanuatu to Singapore.

In regards to reports that the yacht was registered as a diplomatic yacht of Vanuatu, the ministry also confirmed that there are no records within its system that shows that the yacht was registered here for diplomatic purposes. However, the Foreign Affairs Ministry confirmed that Mr. Saken has been nominated to be the Vanuatu Honorary Consul to Vietnam, although his appointment has not been made yet officially according to the process of such diplomatic positions.

The ministry informed Daily Post that this nomination is yet to be officially confirmed through appropriate diplomatic channels in accordance with 1963 Vienna Conventions on Consular Relations.

Anh Quan Saken's nomination had already been endorsed by the Council of Ministers of the government led by Prime Minister, Sato Kilman, however the official appointment has not been made yet by Foreign Affairs.

While the appointment has not been made yet through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Saken was already exercising diplomatic privileges and functions overseas in Singapore as reported yesterday by Daily Post.

But the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised: "The Ministry wishes to advice that any use of the official designation ad Honorary Consul without the official recognition of the receiving state is deemed diplomatically inappropriate and this will not be entertained by the Government.

"Honorary Consuls can only fully discharge their consular functions within their designation district in the receiving countries when an official confirmation is reciprocated through diplomatic channels," the ministry of foreign affairs advised through a statement.

Meanwhile, reliable sources have informed Daily Post that at least two senior government ministers boarded the mega yacht 'Phocea' because their photographs were found on board and confiscated by the police.

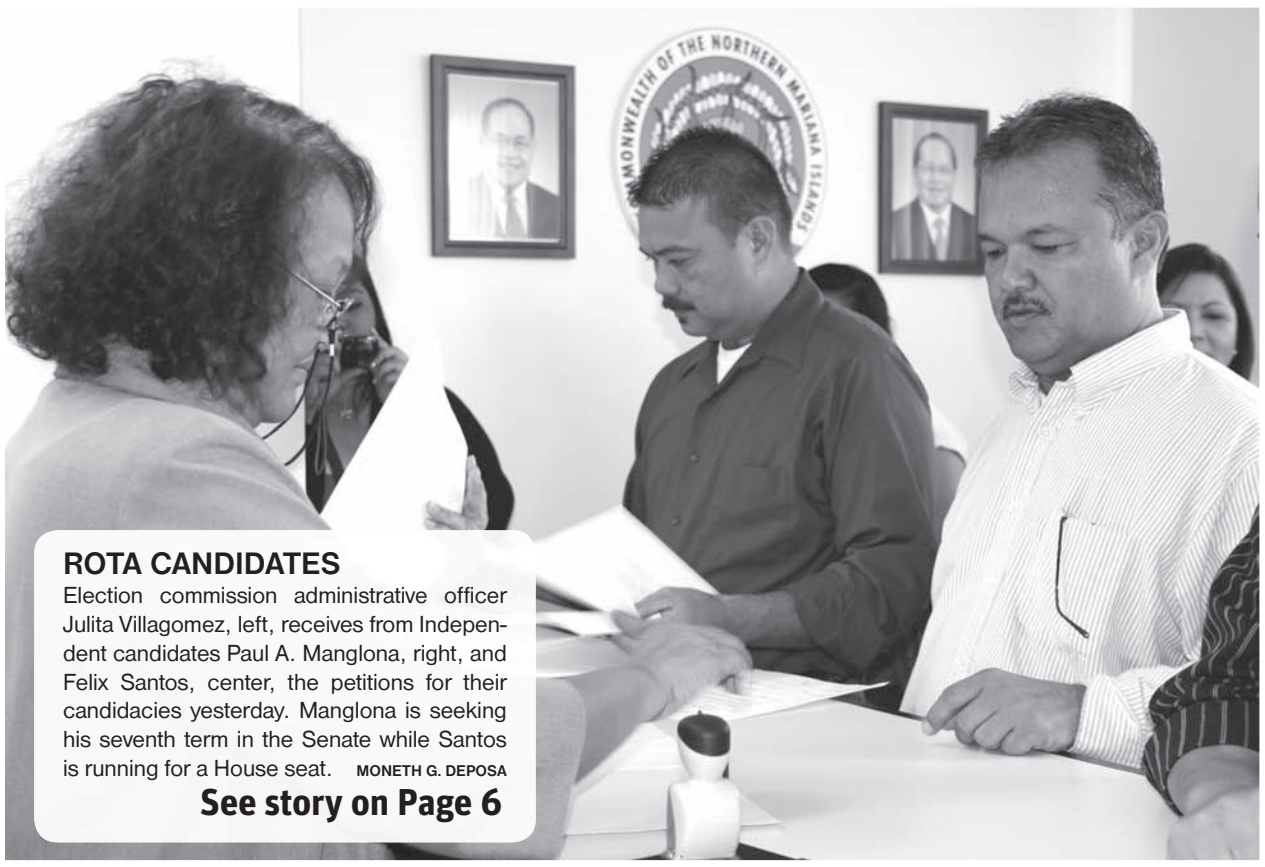
Three other members of parliament were reportedly seen jumping onto the yacht's dinghy at Pango to get to the yacht moored outside Pango Point, even before the yacht was cleared by customs and immigration.

The police reportedly found papers of the Vanuatu Maritime Authority with the signature of a former VMA Commissioner still intact.

These VMA papers were allegedly used to create false shipping registrations for Vanuatu and false call names.

Daily Post sources said the police raid also found that one of the senior government ministers went on board the yacht because he was allegedly conned into believing that the owner of the yacht had connections to a university being set up in Vanuatu.

These photographs are currently with the police Trans-National Crime Unit.



ROTA CANDIDATES
Election commission administrative officer Julita Villagomez, left, receives from Independent candidates Paul A. Manglona, right, and Felix Santos, center, the petitions for their candidacies yesterday. Manglona is seeking his seventh term in the Senate while Santos is running for a House seat. MONETH G. DEPOSA

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RESIGNS

From Page 1

properly.

Buckingham's nomination as AG was confirmed by the Senate on Aug. 14, 2009. But prior to that, he was already with the OAG's Civil and Criminal divisions for three years each.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to make a decision on who will take charge of the OAG in the interim.

"Governor Fitial understands that the AG's decision was based on personal family matters. Nonetheless, the governor is very much grateful for the services of Mr. Buckingham to the Commonwealth both as an assistant attorney general and as attorney general. The administration wishes him well as he embarks on a new chapter in his life," Demapan said.

Buckingham, in an interview at his office yesterday, said he could keep doing his job but he also needs to spend time with Pam, his wife of 37 years.

"I could keep doing this as long as I keep doing it but what my wife reminded me is, we are husband and wife. And she's probably not going to like me saying this on the record but I'm going to. We average, and she started timing me, we tend to average about 18 minutes a day of time, because I'm spending my days and nights working. That's what comes with this job. So the job is incredibly intense. And part of what I want to do as long as I'm doing this job is do it to the best of my ability. But I also perhaps selfishly, I want some time with my wife. So that's my answer to your question," Buckingham said.

He and his wife Pam have been married 37 years. His wife used to work at Northern Marianas College. They have a 34-year-old son, a medical doctor.

"I'm happily married, been happily married, and I'm going to stay happily married," he said.

They will be going back to the mainland, first to San Francisco, California.

He said he's leaving with two different feelings.

"I think I leave with a sense of gratitude for how much we have accomplished. But I think we've accomplished a lot in the last three years so for that I'm very pleased with what we've done. The heavy heart is, I truly care for the office, I care for the people in the office, and I care for the Commonwealth and I've done my best," he said.

He said he's not claiming what he's done with OAG has been perfect, "but I've certainly done my best for the three years I've done this. It's been a privilege to serve the office, and serve the people."

Among the accomplishments he cited are: the reestablishment of the AG's Cup, improvement in criminal case management, dramatic strengthening of the victims' services, and managed the transition of immigration employees to new roles and positions when the Division of Immigration was shut down.

The OAG was also able to stand its ground when he said the Office of the Public Auditor tried to encroach into the OAG's prosecution function.

"We got significant support from the governor and as a result of that, we have the staff and resources to operate the OAG to do our job," he said.

Right before the government shut down in October 2010 over the absence of a budget, OAG issued an opinion where it said there will be no back pay for legislators and they won't have any access to any money until a budget is passed.

"I do believe that helped contribute tot the shortness of the government shutdown," he said, adding that they've also created legal assistance and prosecution teams that have made OAG stronger.

He also talked about performance-based organizational culture "where we're holding people accountable for work." He said OAG stopped the International Consulting Services deal with the hospital.

Buckingham said OAG successfully challenged at least in part the excessive legal fees in the Retirement Fund case. They have also established the Roger B. Igisomar AGO Employee of the Year Award in honor and respect for Roger Igisomar, formerly of the OAG.

Prior to coming to the CNMI, Buckingham worked in Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Buckingham has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, one of the top-ranked schools in the United States, where he graduated with honors. He earned his law degree from the University of Denver. He is admitted to practice law in Colorado, the CNMI, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

(To be continued tomorrow: On the issues involving OPA, the 2010 election and the ARRA contract, among other things.)

WEINDL

From Page 1

According to the indictment, on June 15 and 18, 2012, Weindl received or attempted to receive "still image and video files depicting minor children engaging in sexually explicit conduct, including oral sex, sexual intercourse, and the lascivious exhibition of the genitals and pubic area."

The defendant allegedly "knowingly accessed with intent to view the material that contains such image of child pornography."

Weindl is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from the federal court's order for his detention pending trial.

The defendant is seeking the Ninth Circuit's reversal of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's detention order issued on July 17.

Manglona in her order stated that after conducting a detention hearing under the Bail Reform Act, she concludes that facts require that the defendant be detained pending trial.

Manglona found probable cause to believe that Weindl has committed an offense for which a maximum prison term of 10 years or more is prescribed

The judge determined that the defendant has not rebutted the presumption established by finding that no condition will reasonably assure his appearance and the safety of the community.

The prosecution alleged that as indicated in the e-blaster reports, Weindl searched for and accessed almost 200 websites containing images of child pornography.

E-blaster is a computer and Internet monitoring software program.

The prosecution said several of the searches conducted and web sites accessed, specifically reference "eleven year old girl" and "twelve year old" engaging in sexual conduct.

The prosecution said Weindl also searched for images depicting the violent sexual abuse of children.

HR 1466

From Page 1

the CNMI for at least 10 years.

In particular, senators want Sablan's HR 1466 amended to ensure that only those lawfully admitted aliens residing in the CNMI for at least five years prior to May 8, 2008 will be conferred CNMI-only resident status, and any other condition as may be required by Congress.

"The Senate finds that these conditions will ensure that this special status conferred by HR 1466 will be limited to those lawfully admitted aliens residing in the CNMI," senators said.

Senators also request that, if practical, HR 1466 be amended to include the CNMI Senate's recommendation for the improved status of guest workers in the CNMI.

The Senate asked the U.S. Congress in March 2010 to grant alien workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 an immigration status similar to those granted to citizens of the Freely Associated States.

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae.

These were included in a Senate joint resolution adopted yesterday supporting a five-year extension of the transitional period of the Commonwealth-only worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014 "so that the CNMI will have an adequate number of workers available for legitimate businesses."

Senate Joint Resolution 17-21, introduced by Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 8-0.

Only Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) was absent among nine senators.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, when asked for comment yesterday, said while they appreciate the Senate looking after the immigration status of long-term foreign workers, UWM is consistent in its position asking "green card, pathway to citizenship" for long-term aliens.

Syed also reiterated that UWM-NMI does not want the transition period extended beyond 2014 and asks the U.S. government instead to grant improved status to long-term foreign workers.

The Senate, in its four-page adopted resolution, echoed Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan's statement that there is simply not enough eligible, trained and qualified U.S. residents available in the CNMI to replace CW-1 holders by end of 2014.

Less than half of close to 12,000 foreign workers applied a CW status have been granted CW permit, and these exclude intra-company transferees and H visa applications.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Sablan, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce support extending the transition period, saying the CNMI needs more time to train resident workforce to take over the positions filled by foreign workers.

Villagomez officially out of Retirement Fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Richard Villagomez has officially exited the NMI Retirement Fund as its administrator following the expiration of his contract last Monday, July 31.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that the administration did not make any appointment or re-appointment to the position because the Executive Branch doesn't have the authority to do so.

Villagomez's tenure at the Fund, he said, could be addressed if the board of trustees earlier prepared a contingency plan for the agency.

"Unfortunately, the NMIRF board, before losing quorum, did not formulate a contingency plan for the Fund administrator's position. Absent a final dismissal from bankruptcy court, the Executive Branch is not able to act on NMIRF matters yet," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Villagomez

Demapan said since the Fund administrator's contract had expired, and in the absence of an administrator, the Fund should now be headed, in the interim, by the next ranking official in its organizational structure.

Esther Ada is the Fund's deputy administrator and the next person in charge of the agency's operations.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Villagomez on his last day, but he did not respond to inquiries. Ada also has yet to release comments on her interim appointment.

Villagomez was appointed as the agency's administrator following the departure of Mark A. Aguon in May 2010. Aguon quit the job after 18 years of service.

Prior to becoming Fund administrator, Villagomez served the agency as its loan manager and analyst. Villagomez earlier disclosed that he's not expecting his contract to be renewed.

According to Commonwealth Retirees Association chair Larry DLG. Cabrera yesterday, Villagomez assured him that a competent team, headed by Ada, will take over the management of the Fund after his departure.

Cabrera said upon learning about Villagomez's expiring contract, he became more worried about the pension program.

"In my last conversation with him [Villagomez], he assured me that Ms. Ada is a very capable individual along with her team members," he said yesterday, adding that he is counting on this assurance.

The chairman believes that Villagomez's stay can still be acted upon by the remaining board of trustees, or a request can be made to the administrator to continue his tenure.

The NMI Retirement Fund has been placed on emergency status by the Executive Branch through an executive order that also aimed to transfer its operation and management to the Department of Finance. But because a bankruptcy case is ongoing, the actual transfer will not happen unless a formal decision is rendered by the bankruptcy judge.

The continuing depletion of the pension program's assets was the main reason for the bankruptcy petition filed by the agency's board in early April. Without infusion of new monies to its portfolio, its lifespan was projected to last less than two years.

Quichocho resigns as NMC Foundation chair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Foundation has a new chairman after Ivan Quichocho stepped down from the position recently.

Quichoco, who has been with the organization for 10 years and previously served as its vice president, told *Saipan Tribune* that he resigned to focus on his work as an executive of Tan Holdings.

Quichoco replaced former chair Ben Babauta who also resigned last year.

Dr. Alan Markoff confirmed yesterday his selection as the organization's new chief. He disclosed that among the top priorities of his leadership is to form a new Foundation board of directors that will have separate functions with the existing Foundation board.

» Foundation approves consultancy contract for Hart's husband

The existing board, he said, is for the organization and support to NMC, while the new board will strictly focus on fundraising for the college.

Markoff said the idea was patterned after the current structure of University of Guam.

Saipan Tribune learned that in its last meeting, the Foundation board approved a short-term consultancy contract for a new company.

Markoff confirmed that Strategies for Philanthropy was hired for a five-week consultancy work from July to August.

The company's owner is Steven West—the husband of NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, who is a member of the college foundation board of directors.

Markoff said the goal of forming a new Foundation board and tapping a consultancy service is to "engage more people" in the business sector to get involve in supporting the college. He added that despite having two boards, no conflict or overlapping of functions is anticipated because of their entirely different duties.

The new Foundation chairman also believes that Hart is not in conflict with the foundation's hiring of her husband because the NMC president is not a voting member of the organization—thus, does not take part in the decision-making.

Markoff added that he is personally monitoring the works of West in a daily basis.

In the new board to be formed, 10 to 15 members from the community are being eyed to be tapped.

Markoff said letters to prospective members have been prepared which invite them to "brainstorm" with the Foundation.

Supported by NMC Regents

In a separate interview with NMC board of regents chair Juan T. Lizama yesterday, he disclosed that the regents are supporting the establishment of a new foundation board.

In a meeting early this year, regents were split in their opinion about creating another foundation board, citing the conflict it may bring to the organization.

Lizama said that regents' opinions became unanimous after they attended a board conference in San Diego where college foundations were among those discussed.

The regents, he said, are now supportive of the idea. Lizama is a voting member of the NMC Foundation.

Lizama said developing a new foundation board is "a good cause of action" because it will spearhead a more diverse and aggressive fundraising efforts for NMC.

He said West has the expertise needed by the Foundation to move forward with this new direction. He claimed that not anyone on island can be readily available to help out.

The NMC Board of Regents established the NMC Foundation in 1999 for the purpose of acquiring, managing, and disbursing funds from alternative sources to support the advancement of NMC's educational programs and services.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization composed of committed community volunteers, primarily from the business sector, who are dedicated to improving higher education in the CNMI by encouraging private and public support for NMC

Lizama said because the Foundation was legislatively created, some businesses are not comfortable providing donations which may subject them to legislative inquiry.

Camacho 'shows justice' to habitual offender who violated probation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

"Today, this court will show the defendant justice!"

Thus stated Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho in slapping five years and six months against a habitual offender who violated his probation in a robbery case.

The five years and six months—or 66 months—is the full maximum remainder of defendant Eric Aguon's original sentence in the robbery case.

Camacho ordered the 20-year-old Aguon to serve the 66 months jail term day to day, without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, weekend release or any other similar program.

"This sentence shall start immediately today," said the judge, who gave the defendant credit for 26 days that he already served while awaiting his sentencing hearing.

Camacho reminded Aguon that he is still facing possible additional jail time in a new case charging him with theft.

Before announcing the sentence, Camacho cited the background of the case.

According to court records, on May 1, 2010 police arrested Aguon in connection with the robbery at Chang Won Restaurant in Chalan Kanoa that occurred a few hours that same day.

Aguon armed with a rock and accompanied by a juvenile carrying a 2X2 lumber robbed Chang Won Restaurant.

Aguon and his juvenile accomplice pushed their way into the restaurant, threatened Mrs. Kyung Aea Jung, who was hiding in fear in a room.

Aguon and his juvenile accomplice took money from the cash drawer as well as forced Mrs. Jung to hand the money in her pocket.

The surveillance camera in the establishment led to the identification of Aguon and his companion—a male juvenile.

On Oct. 25, 2010, Aguon pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. As part of the plea deal, the government moved to dismiss the remaining eight charges.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced the then 18-year-old Aguon to seven years in prison, all suspended except 18 months, without the possibility of parole.

Aguon was given credit for the time he has been serving in jail since his arrest on May 1, 2010.

On Nov. 1, 2011, the defendant was released from the Department of Corrections after completing the jail term.

Camacho said that, on Dec. 18, 2011 or a month and a half after being released from DOC, Aguon was arrested for disturbing the peace and public intoxication in connection with an incident where he allegedly exposed his genitals to a woman.

In March 2012, the Office of the Attorney General moved for the revocation of probation of Aguon. The OAG said the defendant failed to, among other things, obey all CNMI laws as he was arrested for disturbing the peace and for minor consuming alcohol.

Camacho said at a revocation hearing on June 12, 2012, Aguon admitted to three of the four allegations for revoking his probation.

Camacho said that, on July 5, 2012 while awaiting sentencing on his probation revocation, Aguon was arrested on an incident involving theft.

At yesterday's sentencing hearing, the Office of Adult Probation recommended a sentence of six months to one year in prison with other conditions.

Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson recommended a one-year jail sentence. Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, counsel for Aguon, recommended two to three months jail term.

Camacho said that, in 2010, the court showed mercy and accepted a plea agreement that sentenced the defendant to only 18 months out of seven years.

Camacho said as part of the plea bargain, the defendant waived his right to a trial and got the benefit of a much reduced sentence.

The judge said part of the deal of the plea agreement is for Aguon to comply with all the conditions of the agreement as well as obey the laws of the CNMI.

"Defendant Eric Aguon has failed to hold up his end of the bargain," Camacho said.

Independents Manglona, Santos file election candidacies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Independent candidates Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Felix Santos, center, pose with their families and supporters after filing their candidacies yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe. Manglona is seeking his seventh term in the Senate while Santos is running for a House seat.

Independent candidates Senate President Paul A. Manglona and former public safety director Felix Santos filed their petitions yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission seeking Senate and House seats, respectively, for Rota.

Manglona, who has been serving the government for 25 years, is running for his seventh term in the upcoming mid-term elections.

Describing himself as the people's candidate, he promised to continue to push for legislation that will improve the Commonwealth's economy, create employment, take care of the people's health, and boost the tourism industry not only of Rota but Saipan and Tinian as well.

Manglona will run against Republican Party bet Victor Hocog, whom he described as an "appointed candidate" by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. The governor and the Senate president are not seeing eye to eye on many issues.

He said that in the past 25 years of public service, he had never seen people suffering this much during the Fitial administration. Manglona claimed that once reelected, along with Santos, they will bring the government back to the people.

"This is too much! We talked about healthcare, education, high utility rates, retirement fund, and yet there is no absolute plans coming from the administration!" he told reporters yesterday, adding that the Legislature has to stand up and exercise its independence so it can come up with initiatives for the people.

To move much-needed bills, Manglona said the Legislature should stop serving as a "puppet" of the governor.

In the CNMI, Manglona said it appears that the administration has so much power over the Legislature which is not healthy in a democratic form of government.

When asked about his advantages over his opponent, Manglona said it is the freedom and will to talk about the real problems and plans.

"On the other side, they are afraid to talk about the problems because they largely seem dependent on the governor to take the lead, but the governor is not taking any lead. They don't have plans…but casino!' he added.

Manglona cited some specific issues to justify the inaction of the Fitial administration. Among these is the potential loss of millions of dollars for food stamp program, 702 monies, and other competitive grants that can come in to the CNMI.

For Felix Santos, his decision to run for a House seat was result of "inaction" and "neglect" he had seen on the part of incumbent representative for Rota.

Santos will run against his cousin, incumbent Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Aside from being a retired resident director of Rota's Department of Public Safety for two administrations, Santos claimed that he had also contributed a lot to the community of Rota.

Once elected to the post, he will endorse legislation that will improve the economy. Santos believes that each and every House member plays a key role in the progress of the island.

He said his advantage over his opponent is his strong relationship with Rota families, his professional background, and a clean record.

Santos was appointed DPS director for Rota during the administration of mayors Joseph Inos and Melchor Mendiola. The trust and confidence of these officials, he added, are proof of his credibility.

Apatang to run against King for Rota BOE seat

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Board of Education candidate Dexter Apatang, right, turns in his petition yesterday to election commission administrative officer Julita Villagomez. Apatang will run against incumbent BOE Rota member Tanya King.

An official of the parents, teachers, and students association for the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. & Sr. High School is challenging incumbent Board of Education member Tanya King in this year's mid-term elections.

Dexter Apatang filed his petition at the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday with strong belief that he can bring Rota schools the developments and progress it deserves.

Apatang serves the school system as Rota's representative to the parents' advisory council, board member for special education state advisory panel, and the vice president for the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. & Sr. High School PTSA.

A first-time candidate for the BOE seat, Apatang believes that his firm determination and active involvement in educational issues on island will bring him success in the Nov. 6 elections.

When asked about the areas he wants to prioritize if elected to the board, Apatang vowed to advocate not only for students' welfare but for teachers who deserve a higher salary and wages.

He also identified the need to bring "equality" to both Rota and Tinian students by providing the same opportunities their counterparts on Saipan enjoy. Among these are the course offerings in carpentry, electrician, and culinary arts which currently are not made available for Rota students.

Apatang also vowed to rally for a higher budget for individual schools and for PSS in general by working collaboratively with lawmakers.

For several years serving public school students, Apatang claimed that he had helped the system in securing funding for Rota schools by working collaboratively with the Rota legislative delegation.

In 2008, he said the delegation funded the fencing project of Sinapalo Elementary School worth $248,000. The PTSA also assisted the junior high school by raising $1,000 for some programs and activities. Apatang said he also lobbied for the purchase of some equipment for special education worth $2,490 and a landing pad for special education program amounting to $5,000.

The PTSA was also instrumental in securing this year $150,000 for the construction of walkway canopy at the secondary school and is still lobbying for $100,000 for the school's bus shelter renovation.

Apatang believes that his close association with families on Rota and his track record as a parent leader for many years are among his advantages.

Apatang, 40, is married to Marcia Apatang and the couple has six children.

TOC receives $5,000 from Docomo Pacific

Docomo Pacific recently presented a $5,000 donation, composed of a combination of cash and raffles prizes, to the organizers of the Tournament of Champions, which will be held this weekend on Aug. 4 and 5.

"Docomo Pacific is excited to be taking part in the biggest tournament of the CNMI, especially given the growing popularity of the event in the region," said Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson. "More importantly, the event benefits many important community projects, which makes this a win-win situation for all."

"We are very grateful to Docomo Pacific and its continued support over the years," said TOC director Ben Babauta. "The donation contributes significantly to the excitement and success of the golf tournament."

According to Babauta, more than 200 golfers are expected for the 17th Tournament of Champions, which will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses.

Babauta stressed that the two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $175.

First place winners in the men's championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior Flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tournament of Champions director Ben Babauta (second from right) receives a check of $5,000 for cash and prizes from Docomo Pacific's general manager James Nelson (center) and Docomo representatives. The 17 Annual Tournament of Champions is scheduled for Aug. 4 and 5, 2012 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Over $300,000 worth of prizes is at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes worth $50,000 on both the east and west courses courtesy of AON Insurance, while Bank of Hawaii is sponsoring another hole-in-one prize of $20,000. Other hole-in-one prizes include a 2012 Ford Fiesta from Joeten Motors, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors, and a 2013 Toyota Venza from Microl Toyota.

Laolao Bay Golf Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize, and Delta Airlines is also contributing business class airfares to the U.S. mainland as yet an additional hole-in-one prize. The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prizes for closest to pin competitions.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to the improvements of the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2012 TOC, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530. ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Dandan burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a burglary incident that occurred in Dandan village.

On Tuesday, July 31, 2012, at about 3:25am, police responded to a burglary in progress at the home of a Korean family in Dandan. The family was asleep when the suspect cut through the perimeter fence gaining entry into the compound. A rebar on the bathroom window was pried open and the sliding glass removed allowing the suspect entry into the home.

The mother awoke to sounds coming from the bathroom. She woke up her husband and the couple spotted the suspect in their home. The suspect ran into the bathroom closing the door behind him. The husband grabbed a baseball bat and stood guard at the bathroom door while his wife called the police.

The husband opened the bathroom door, turned on the light and realized the suspect escaped through the open window. The suspect is described as male, about 5'4" to 5'6" tall, 160-180 lbs, wearing a gray T-shirt, and brown short pants. Nothing was stolen or missing from the home.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call.

Anyone having information about these crimes, or any other crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(Crimes Stoppers)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EMO warns of high surf until Friday

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches in the next couple of days due to life-threatening rip currents. In a high surf advisory issued late afternoon yesterday, EMO said that a large west swell will cause hazardous surf along west facing reefs. A west swell will cause combined seas of 7 to 8 feet tonight to build to 8 to 10 feet by Friday. "Therefore, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is advising the general public especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers to exercise caution along exposed reefs and beaches," part of the EMO advisory read. EMO said that isolated thunderstorms will continue through Friday night with southwest winds persisting through the weekend. It added that the hazardous surf may continue into the coming weekend. ***(EMO)***

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on Aug. 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

TES kindergarten enrollment

Kindergarten registration at Tanapag Elementary School has started and will run up to Aug. 3, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the main office of the school campus. There will be only 20 slots for kindergarten. It's a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements include a registration form, health clearance/ certificate, birth certificate, proof of guardianships, and map of residency. For more information contact the main office at 237-3162/4. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

BankPacific warns public on fraudulent email

BankPacific has recently received a report of a fraudulent email that falsely appears to be sent by BankPacific.

The subject line of the email states: "Upgrade your account." The email informs the recipient that "Your online Banking access has been out of our SSL Data, to upgrade your access, log on below." The email then includes a false link for the recipient to log on to their account.

Note that this email message is fraudulent and you should not respond! Be advised that BankPacific will never request from its customers or others, bank account information or sensitive personal information via telephone or unsecured email.

BankPacific encourages all customers to be wary of suspicious telephone calls and email messages. Further, you should never provide your account or personal information to anyone over the phone or through non-secured email. If you did respond to this fraudulent email or any email of similar nature, contact John McKinnon, BankPacific compliance and security officer at 671-479-1196. ***(BankPacific)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-LB-095

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) LAPTOPS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY CONTACT MR. PATRICK SEMAN AT (670) 664-8954.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MELCHOR MENDIOLA
DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-MOT-079

BID SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 28, 2012 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BOOM-ARM TRACTOR MOWER FOR TINIAN, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR AT THE TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ
MAYOR OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board
will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2012
at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor,
Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of July 12, 2012 minutes
   5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)
B. Public Hearings
   1. None
C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
   1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012
   2. Update on the Amendment of the Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Business Zoning Law of 2012 (Local Bill)
E. New Business
   1. Office operations report
F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Babauta visits aquaculture trainees at NMC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs, Anthony Babauta (second from left) takes time to pose for a group photo during a visit to the Northern Marianas College. Babauta visited the NMC to learn about the progress of the CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association (CAPA) training program, which is currently providing a group of participants instruction and hands-on training in aquaculture through the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (NMC-CREES). From left, NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo, Babauta, NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, CAPA president Pedro Arriola, and CAPA board member John Hosono.

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs, Anthony "Tony" Babauta, recently visited individuals from the CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association (CAPA) currently undergoing aquaculture training at the Northern Marianas College.

CAPA endeavors to develop an aquaculture workforce in the CNMI by providing hands-on training and scholarship opportunities, as well as educational instruction through the Aquaculture Training for On-line Learning (ATOLL) program for participants.

CAPA is part of the Agriculture & Aquaculture Enhancement Program, which is funded by the CNMI Department of Commerce through an economic and labor enhancement grant from the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

Through the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (NMC-CREES), participants are provided hands-on instruction to gain experience at the College's aquaculture facilities. During the six-month long program, participants are also required to take academic courses at NMC, such as Agricultural Science and Introduction to Business.

"Participants are awarded certificates of completion at the end of the training," said NMC-CREES aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo. "This achievement will make them highly employable in a fast growing industry worldwide."

Ogo also reported that the current training session will finish in October with the second cohort expected to begin the following month in November.

Babauta toured the NMC campus and NMC-CREES aquaculture facilities, and met with participants to learn more about the progress of the training program. Babauta also expressed his interest in aquaculture and even indicated that he would also like to raise his own fish.

During the visit, NMC president Sharon Y. Hart greeted Babauta and thanked him for his support of the CNMI and NMC.

"I am extremely thankful for Mr. Babauta's support of the College," said Hart. "At the same, I commend NMC-CREES for their efforts in helping CAPA create a workforce for the CNMI's aquaculture industry."

"I am also proud to mention that their dedication to the expansion of this field has helped make the CNMI one of the largest producers of shrimp," added Hart.

For more information about the CAPA training program and/or the NMC-CREES aquaculture division, contact NMC-CREES aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo at 234-5498 ext. 1728 or email michaelo@nmc-net.edu. ***(PR)***

COTA receives grantee approval from FTA

CAPITOL HILL, Saipan—The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA), under the Office of the Governor, today announced that the its request for grantee status has been approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Thomas J. Camacho, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Special Assistant for Public Transportation, received the communication from Leslie T. Rogers, FTA Regional Administrator for Region IX.

Camacho

"The COTA, on behalf of the Fitial administration, is elated to have been informed by the FTA that it has completed its review of our application requesting grantee status," said Camacho. "According to the Regional Administrator, the FTA concurred that we have met the legal, technical, and financial capacity requirements to manage FTA grants."

On Aug. 11, 2011, Fitial officially created the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority within the Office of the Governor and concurrently appointed Camacho as the CNMI's first Special Assistant for Public Transportation. Camacho was the former Special Assistant for Disability Policy & Programs.

"This is a very significant step forward in our efforts to secure available funding to effectively implement programs that will pave the way for greater opportunities in the areas of public transit in the Commonwealth," added Camacho.

Pursuant to Public Law 17-43, COTA is responsible to: 1) Develop goals and objectives for the establishment of a public transportation system in the Commonwealth:; 2) Develop and establish a public transportation system in the Commonwealth which may include a Transit System Feasibility Study, Needs Assessment, Financial Management Plan, Transit Management Plan and Human Services Transportation Plan; 3) Seek, identify, and apply for pertinent public transportation funds from the Federal Government (i.e. FTA, FHWA, EPA, Dept. of Energy, USDA, HUD and private transportation associations); 4) Develop and implement a public transportation policies and programs consistent with Commonwealth and Federal Laws to include propose promulgation and adoption of Transportation Rules and Regulations; 5) Recommend to CPTAB, Governor and Legislature changes in CNMI laws to accomplish established goals and objectives through public policies and sustainable public transportation system through earmarks, taxes and other revenues (i.e. parking meters); 6) Procure public transportation vehicles, equipment, and supplies, including future transportation maintenance and repair facility; 7) Recruit and employ support staff necessary to carry out this office duties and responsibilities; and 9) Submit an annual report to the Governor and the Presiding Officers of the Legislature pertaining to the operation, programs, and federal grants. Such report shall be provided on or before Jan. 31 of each year. ***(PR)***

CRMO and CJPA get annual federal funds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Both the CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office and the Northern Mariana Islands Criminal Justice Planning Agency were awarded federal funds today. CRMO is to receive $924,000, marking the 20th year of funding to administer its federally approved coastal management program. CJPA will get $243,854 for a variety of programs related to crime prevention and control.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan received the grant announcements from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce and from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs.

"The steady flow of federal funds to government agencies in the Northern Marianas makes it possible to provide many vital services that local funding alone could never pay for," Sablan said.

"So, my efforts in Congress are focused on funding those programs that mean the most to people in the Northern Marianas; and I congratulate the management and staff at CRMO and CJPA who continue to make good use of this federal money."

The NOAA funding is scheduled to support a number of local projects, including the Clean Beaches campaign and the Talakhaya Conservation Action Plan on Rota. The $924,000 also underwrites the core activities of CRMO such as permitting of coastline development and public outreach and education. Climate change adaptation and planning are also increasingly a necessary use for these annual operations funds.

The $243,854 awarded to CJPA will allow the agency to fund local grant proposals in the areas of crime prevention, law enforcement, courts, and corrections. According to the Department of Justice, the programs and initiatives funded will focus on providing services directly to individuals and specific communities and on improving the effectiveness of the entire criminal justice system. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 2, 2000

Stay of $10K water wellhead fee draws support from House

The chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications yesterday threw support behind appeal by private well owners for a stay on the proposed fees of at least $10,000 for each wellhead. Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho said the fees are "ridiculously high" at a time when the island is still mired in economic crisis and most of the wells are aging. During a meeting with well owners, water companies and federal and local agencies, his committee gathered inputs and recommendations for a proposed comprehensive legislation that will deal with the worsening water situation in the CNMI, particularly on Saipan.

BOE approves work hour increase for Headstart TAs

The State Board of Education has approved the CNMI Headstart Program's requested time extension for its teacher assistants from four to six working hours per day. BOE Vice Chair Roman Benavente said there is currently a pressing demand for teacher aides to spend more time in the classroom and assist teachers on the students' learning. In addition, the board has also agreed to extend teacher assistants' working days from four to five school days per week. Though Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Inos has expressed preference to shelve the time extension until such time that teacher aides can be fully certified in their field, the board still opted to push for the implementation.

Aug. 2, 2001

Pollution, prostitution tarnish Saipan's image

Japanese travelers are discouraged to visit the Northern Marianas due to bad reviews presented by those who previously visited Saipan. According to a report submitted by the JAL Sales Network Co., Ltd. to the Marianas Visitors Authority, bad reviews have influenced inclinations of other Japanese travelers to visit the Northern Marianas in recent months. The report cited the prostitution activities in Western Garapan and the Puerto Rico dumpsite as main reasons why most travelers visit other resort destinations instead.

Funding shortage delays Airport Rd. construction

Budgetary constraints have been causing delay to the completion of the Airport Road construction project, according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas was responding to an inquiry made by House Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Antonio Camacho. Salas said the public works department had already completed the design for the Saipan International Airport Road, adding that the construction phase will begin as soon as funding becomes available. He noted the road improvement project's importance since it gives arriving tourists the initial impression of what Saipan and the rest of the Northern Marianas have to offer. "The project is long overdue and is extremely crucial."

Aug. 2, 2002

Senate committee urges approval of Verizon sale

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication has recommended the approval of the sale of Verizon Pacifica to the Pacific Telecom Inc., subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions. Based on Standing Committee Report 13-40, members of the Senate panel said they were convinced of Pacific Telecom's commitment to maintain competitive rates, upgrade the local operations and protect the employees of Verizon Pacifica. The report, signed by committee chair Sen. Diego M. Songao, committee vice chair Sen. David M. Cing, and member-senators Ricardo S. Atalig, Ramon S. Guerrero and Thomas P. Villagomez, was addressed to Senate President Paul A. Manglona.

Rota delegation supports new airport master plan

The Rota Legislative Delegation supports the update on the island's air transport facility master plan through a resolution adopted yesterday. Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 13-5 was approved during a special session by Senators Ricardo Atalig, Diego M. Songao, Paul A. Manglona, and Daniel Quitugua. According to Carlos H. Salas, Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director, the update on the island's airport master plan was presented by ports officials to Rota local government officials. The master plan proposed to extend the length of the runway by an additional 2,600 feet in order to accommodate the types of aircraft necessary to meet the future economic and tourism goals of the island.

Pacific

Fiji high court finds Qarase guilty on all charges

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The Suva High Court today has upheld the assessors' decision on former director of Fijian Holdings Limited (FHL) Laisenia Qarase's guilty opinion.

High Court Judge Justice Priyantha Fernando found Qarase guilty of six counts of abuse of office and three counts of discharge of duty with respect to a property in which he has a private interest.

It was alleged Qarase between 1992 to 2000 while employed as a director of Fijian Holdings Limited, Financial Advisor of the Fijian Affairs Board and advisor to the Great Council of Chiefs, in abuse of the authority of his office, did arbitrary acts.

Qarase

He was alleged to have applied in the name of Cicia Plantation Co-op Society Limited, Mavana Investments Limited and a family owned company named Q-Ten Investments Limited for the issuance and allotment of Class A shares in Fijian Holdings Limited.

Defence lawyer Tupou Draunidalo put in application for bail pending sentencing where the prosecution lawyer Michael Blanchflower said they did not object to the bail application.

The court accepted Qarase's bail on the ground to have a same bail condition.

But he has to report to the Samabula Police Station from 3pm to 5pm and was asked by the court not to breach his bail condition.

The FICAC also confirmed that Qarase's travel documents are all surrendered. The court ordered for the mitigation submission by defense and a sentencing submission by prosecution.

The case is adjourned for tomorrow morning for the submission by the two parties. Justice Fernando will rule on Qarase's sentence after going through the submissions.

[PIR editor's note: Former defense and immigration ministerRatu Epeli Ganilau has said that public reactions "will be hard to gauge" in Fiji: "Not much public view is entertained through the media and the newspapers in particular, but all we see and hear is the view of the government, if you were to ask the individual Fijian on the street, you may have a different opinions and yet we don't get to see much of that reported in the papers."]

Solomons politicians allegedly taking money from rural fund

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Solomon Islands politicians appear to have found a way round Treasury requirements that funding from the SB$50 million-a-year [US$6.8 million] Rural Livelihood Fund be paid directly to suppliers instead of through Members of Parliament (MP).

Each Constituency is allocated SB$1 million [US$135,100] in Rural Livelihood Funding, which is tax-payer funded, each year. This money is intended for micro-project funding in all 50 Constituencies.

The only requirement is that no hard cash be provided to MPs from this source.

Instead, MPs are required to provide quotes for projects to be funded to the Ministry of Rural Development and Indigenous Affairs.

Payments would then be made directly to the supplier and MPs would simply collect the items on order.

However, sources claimed some politicians have now found a way round this requirement in an attempt to get their hands on the hard cash.

Earlier this year, for example, several MPs placed their orders for solar units and in some cases, iron roofing through a newly created company, said to be operating from a house in the outskirts of Honiara.

"These MPs authorized the Ministry of Rural Development and Indigenous Affairs to approve the orders and to pay the company the value of each order," sources familiar with the elaborate scheme said.

"One MP placed an order worth about SB$900,000 [US$121,590]. The other ordered solar units valued at around SB$400, 000 [US$54,040]. I guess there's nothing wrong with this as it is in line with the Treasury requirements," one source said.

"The problem is that when these huge orders arrived and payments were made, MPs marched up to the company and demanded their Constituency money be reimbursed," the source said. It is not clear if the company had relented.

It is understood however the company has refused to reimburse MPs directly and instead opted to reimburse the Ministry if MPs insisted with their demand for the reimbursements.

Sources familiar with the elaborate scheme say the practice is widespread and is entrenched in just about every industry and service sector.

The use of the Rural Livelihood Fund for solar purchases appears to be a duplication as solar funding is appropriated separately under the Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification.

This year for example, some SB$10 million [US$1.4 million] was allocated in the 2012 Development Budget for solar lighting.

Sources have confirmed that this money had been shared amongst MPs, with each having received some SB$188, 000 [US$25,398] apiece.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Australia, New Zealand restore diplomacy with Fiji

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand and Australia have decided to restore full diplomatic ties with the island nation of Fiji. Relations between the three countries have been strained since Commodore Frank Bainimarama seized power in Fiji during a 2006 coup. But with Bainimarama promising to hold free elections in 2014, tensions have been easing. Australia and New Zealand say they will again station top diplomats known as high commissioners in Fiji and will ease travel restrictions on Fijians associated with the regime. Fiji will reciprocate by placing top diplomats in New Zealand and Australia. New Zealand will also end a ban on Fiji participating in certain sporting events. The announcement came this week after a meeting in Sydney between the foreign ministers of the three nations.

Samoa reform commission calls for media regulation council

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Law Reform Commission in Samoa has released a report recommending media organizations set up a council to regulate the industry. The Commission says the council would set standards for fairness, accuracy and balance in the news media and provide education for journalists. Its Executive Director, Leilani Tuala-Warren, says it has also recommended the government repeal legislation requiring journalists to reveal their sources in court. "They must have that ability to report the truth without fear and without having to compromise their sources... They've had an issue with this for many, many years and we thought even though it was outside of our terms of reference it was important that we do bring it up and that we do recommend that it be taken away." Leilani Tuala-Warren says she is confident the government will adopt the recommendations and the council should be fully up and running within two years.

'Desperate' Solomons students in Fiji waiting on state stipends

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Solomon Islands students studying at the University of South Pacific's Laucala campus in Fiji are reportedly in a desperate situation to survive. A Laucala student Sitiveni Shadds said some students are now surviving on breadfruits around the campus. "Others who are able to secure lending funds will have to repay a substantial amount of interest on top of what they owed from lenders when they get their allowances," Mr. Shadds said. The students had been pleading for the Government to pay up their allowances, but said no payments had been received to date.

SURFS UP AP

In this image provided by the Association of Surfing Professionals, Carissa Moore, of Hawaii, rides a wave during her Xxx round heat at the US Open of Surfing competition Tuesday, July 31, 2012, in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Ex-PNG chief justice Amet loses provincial seat

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Another high profile minister in the former National Alliance-led (NA) Government has lost his seat in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

Former Chief Justice, Attorney General and Justice Minister Sir Arnold Amet lost his Madang provincial seat in another upset in the 2012 General Elections.

Provincial Returning Officer, Ms. Emily Siamoli declared Mr. Jim Kas as the Governor-elect for Madang, ending the five -year term for the former top judge of the country's judiciary.

The loss of Sir Arnold is another blow suffered in this election by National Alliance Party – dominant in PNG politics in the last nine years. The party had lost another long term MP in Mr. Arthur Somare for the Angoram Open seat and Mr. Timothy Bonga for the Nawae Open seat.

Their absence in parliament will be felt, and two other people who will be missed in Parliament are former Lae MP Mr. Bart Philemon and Mr. Moses Maladina, former MP for Esa'ala.

Mr. Somare had admitted that he had lost touch with his people in the electorate and as a result, they have abandoned him.

All these men have served their people for two or three terms in Parliament and are experienced politicians.

Sir Arnold lost his seat to former governor and decommissioned Deputy Prime Minister Belden Namah's PNG Party candidate Mr. Kas.

Mr. Kas was declared as the duly elected Regional MP on the weekend following the final exclusion of People's National Congress (PNC) Party candidate and strongwoman leader Mary Kamang.

The exclusion saw Mr. Kas collect a total of 5,567 votes to bring his grand total to 62,742 votes to cement his victory.

NA had fielded candidates for all seven seats in the province, three of them sitting MP's Ben Semri (Middle Ramu Open), John Tongri Hickey (Bogia Open) and Sir Arnold (Madang Regional) and four new candidates including replacements for Goli Buka Malai (Madang Open) and James Gelak Gau (Raicoast Open). The latter two had split from NA to join ranks with Don Pomb Polye to form the Triumph Heritage Empowerment (THE) Party.

Of the all the candidates whom Sir Michael had fielded and campaigned for in Madang, only one came through and that was Mr. Hickey who was returned by the people of Bogia for the third term.

Sir Arnold's defeat now sees a total of four MP's in the province who have been ousted and they are Mr. Malai (Madang Open), Mr Semri (Middle Ramu Open), Samson Malcolm Kuli (Usino/Bundi Open) and the incumbent governor for the Madang Regional.

The new team now includes Nixon Phillip Duban (Madang Open), Ken Fairweather (Sumkar Open), Assik Tommy Tomscoll (Middle Ramu), Anton Yagama (Usino/Bundi Open), John Tongri Hickey (Bogia Open), James Gelak Gau (Raicoast Open) and Jim Kas (Madang Regional).

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 182

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

When the government kills

Whether or not it succeeds in court, a lawsuit challenging the killings of al-Qaida figure Anwar Awlaki and two other U.S. citizens clearly lays out the problems with the Obama administration's policy of "targeted killings" of suspected terrorists even outside the battle zone of Afghanistan.

Allowing the president of the United States to act as judge, jury and executioner for suspected terrorists, including U.S. citizens, on the basis of secret evidence is impossible to reconcile with the Constitution's guarantee that a life will not be taken without due process of law. Under the law, the government must obtain a court order if it seeks to target a U.S. citizen for electronic surveillance, yet there is no comparable judicial review of a decision to kill a citizen. No court is even able to review the general policies for such assassinations. (Awlaki's family failed in 2010 to persuade a court to enjoin the government from killing him.)

The suit filed this month by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Constitutional Rights seeks an after-the-fact determination that the killings of Awlaki, an associate named Samir Khan and Awlaki's 16-year-old son, Abdulrahman, were not legal. The elder Awlaki and Khan were killed in a drone strike in Yemen in September; Abdulrahman Awlaki was the apparently unintended victim of a strike two weeks later.

Although it ended some of the Bush administration's abuses in the war against al-Qaida, the Obama administration has jealously guarded what it sees as its executive prerogative when it comes to targeted killings. There is congressional oversight of the program, but Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. has rejected any role for the judiciary. In a speech in March, Holder distinguished between "due process" to which Americans targeted for killing are entitled and "judicial process."

In the same speech, Holder insisted that targeted killings would take place only when there was "an imminent threat of violent attack against the United States" and when capturing the suspect was "not feasible." But Holder defined "imminently" broadly to include action that would head off "future attacks."

Ideally, this lawsuit would result in a thorough examination of the legality of targeted killings (without the administration hiding behind the "state secrets" privilege, as it has done in the past). But it's doubtful whether the plaintiffs will succeed in their effort to collect damages from Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and other officials. Twice in recent years, in lawsuits against former Attorney General John Ashcroft, the Supreme Court has rebuffed attempts to hold officials personally liable for abuses related to the war against terrorism.

But if the United States is going to continue down the troubling road of state-sponsored assassination, Congress should, at the very least, require that a court play some role, as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court does with the electronic surveillance of suspected foreign terrorists. Even minimal judicial oversight might make the president and his advisors think twice about whether an American citizen poses such an "imminent" danger that he must be executed without a trial.

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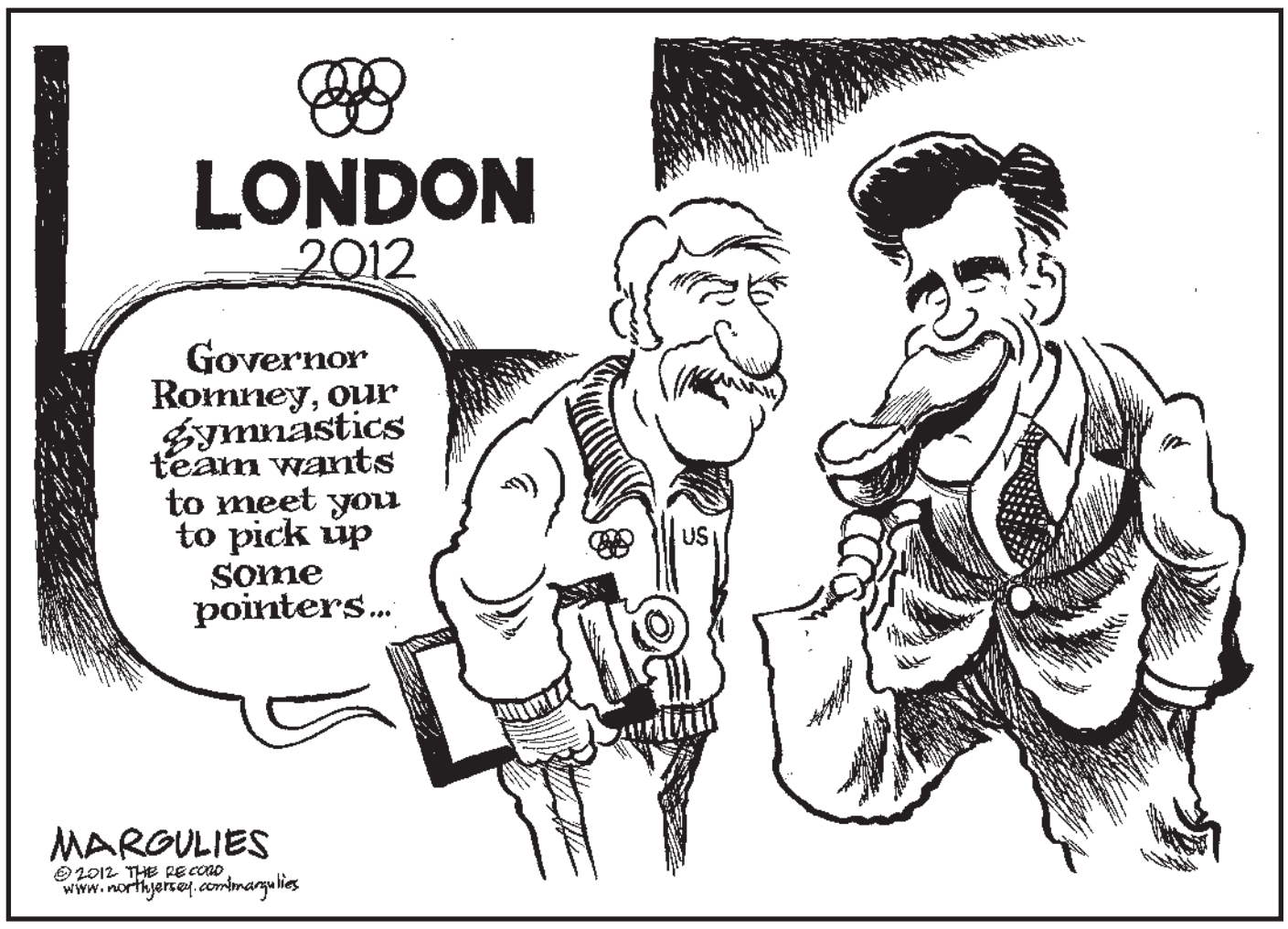


A global boycott for China to act like a civilized nation

By TED LAGUATAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ted Laguatan is a human rights and immigration lawyer in the United States. He is the spokesperson and legal counsel for the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG), an influential organization of Filipino Americans composed of doctors, lawyers, academicians, businesspersons, and other professionals. USP4GG has recently launched the worldwide Boycott China Products Initiative in the United States which was received with enthusiasm in various sectors and has now gained much momentum. "Any global citizen who supports the boycott China products campaign is an automatic member. No dues or registration are required. This is a people's campaign. Just stop buying products from China and tell people why this is necessary for the good of all."

Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, now charged with plunder, election malfeasance and other high crimes—opened the door for the fox to enter the chicken coop when she entered into a controversial secret agreement allowing Chinese research vessels to extensively explore Philippine waters for oil and natural gas.

Having confirmed that the territorial waters of the Philippines hold vast deposits of energy resources, China's officials, like those in the Japanese and German governments in World War II—have decided on a similar reckless immoral condemnable course of action: They seek to invade the territories of smaller helpless countries and take over their resources.

The small armies of the Philippines and surrounding smaller countries are boy scouts compared to China's formidable 2.3 million strong army with its considerable arsenal of war ships, jet planes, conventional and nuclear weapons. Given this disparity, China flaunts its military muscles and in true bully fashion shows little respect for the territorial and property rights of its smaller neighbors.

In World War II, the bad guys in the Japanese and German governments caused enormous pain and suffering to millions of people including their own—with their bullying territory grabbing ways leading America and its allies to eventually declare war on the two villain countries. China is now risking a similar situation with its invading actions in the Philippines.

Adding insult to injury, China's officials have invented a convenient fiction to justify their continuous escalating intrusion into Philippine territory.

They claim that everything under or above the waters of the entire South China Sea also known as West Philippine Sea—belongs to them—that supposedly a 2,000-year-old Han Dynasty map indicates that all these territories were once part of the Chinese empire and that therefore, it is theirs.

Anyone with a modicum of intelligence recognizes the absurdity of this argument. It is doubtful that such a map exists but even if for the sake of argument, let's assume that it does, did the people in these territories recognize the legitimacy of the Han Dynasty's rule over their waters and land 2,000 years ago?

And even if we assume that they did, China's argument is about as ludicrous as the Italian government claiming that the whole of Europe and parts of Africa and Asia belong to them because these were once a part of the Roman Empire. The pygmy Aetas, who arrived and settled in the Philippines some 40,000 years ago from the Andaman Islands would then have a more legitimate claim if this first in time arguments are seriously considered.

Over time, governments rise and fall, new countries are formed and national boundaries shift. Of course, China's officials are aware of these realities. And never mind that they are signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which declares that anything within two hundred miles from a country's baseline belongs to that country and is part of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

And so what if the Philippines and other smaller nations files a complaint to the United Nations International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS) which has jurisdiction over disputes concerning the (UNCLOS). China's officialdom indicates that it is not interested in involving ITLOS.

The hungry dragon's thinking goes this way: "We need a continuous supply of energy to sustain our fabulous economic growth. We import 70 percent of our energy supplies from Russia. The Philippines and other smaller countries have tremendous unexploited reserves of oil and naturals gas. Their pathetic armies are no match for ours. Let's invent a reason on why it is justifiable for us to invade and take their resources—and then let's just do it. Who can stop us."

In line with their scheme, they insist on a bilateral resolution of the marine territorial dispute that they instigated—not involving ITLOS but only a one on one resolution as say, between China and the Philippines or China and Vietnam. Under such a negotiation environment, the Philippines, Vietnam or other small countries do not have the leverage to bargain.

With a mighty army, big guns, economic power and goon mentality, China's officials will make an offer that the Philippines or another small country cannot possibly refuse.

The United States knows China's game plan and the unequal bargaining power involved in a one on one bilateral negotiation

See BOYCOTT on Next Page

Hulun Lake

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

It was our initial intent to dip our toes to the waters of Lake Baikal in Siberia knowing that it would be cold but we demurred on the Russian visa issue so we were pleased to learn that Hulun Lake in Hulunbeier is a sister lake, albeit, considerably of smaller size.

Glamorous as Manzhouli is as a shopping Mecca for relatively inexpensive but fashionable commodities by border crossing Siberian shoppers and southern Chinese tourists, we deferred from parting with our meager renminbi. Instead, we joined the throng that trekked down to Hulun Lake.

As the second largest lake in the country, and the largest in Nei Menggu, we expected it to be like most of the waters of the Great Lakes of North America, save the polluted shores of Cleveland of our early acquiantance, and the unseen Silent Spring of chemical effluent of pesticides and insecticides from farms. It turned out to be both.

Thus, it came as a surprise to walk into a shore that resembled the murky waters of the Laguna de Bai by the Pasig in Manila rather than the Hiawatha's Minnesota clear waters. The water level was, at least, two meters down due to a drought, and given only two months for the comfortably warm summer season, the local tour operators laid out walkways a couple of hundred meters out to where the boats can still float when loaded with rowers, and would not scrape bottom.

Being an island person, we do not find the call of the waters that especially alluring, but the raucous delight of the boat riding public was infectious. One group of elderly ladies got into synchronized rowing with one beating the drums at the head so they can simultaneously pull on their oars in one direction.

Net traps gather the rare small white shrimps and shallow water catfish while fishermen trawl for carp and pike on the deeper end. The numerous gulls, ducks, lovebirds, swans, cranes, and goose dive into schools of sardine-size fishes, which attest to abundance given the frenzied activities of the birds.

We stuck pretty much to the shore, partaking of the roasted fish and the boiled shrimps, and swatting the flies and mosquitoes that abound, which the locals did not seem to mind, this being a given in July and August. Live and let live, in the great in the great Xizang (Tibet) tradition! I was an odd ball to the local matrons who might talk about the foreigner who wandered into their midst, did not ride a horse or had his picture taken astride the camel, did not hire one of the four-wheel bikes, or footpedal the floats nearshore.

"All he did was hacked on his computer," they might say in *hulun hua*, remembering us who relied on the help of Singapore and Hong Kong overseas Chinese to translate when we spoke. (With their kids all iPad-equipped, I gathered an instant congregation, an Asian Steve Jobs after a fashion.) "He worked on the famously high-end Apple laptop," they might add, the one infamously copied in Asia like what was done with fashion houses Ralph Lauren and Louis Vuitton, with even a PC version that runs on Windows!

We do not relish playing tourist much. We prefer traveling into people's lives—intruding into their homes and social gatherings. We gravitate toward the public market where we like to sample foods and fruits, at least, once. We walk the parks (China's *feng shui* context of intellectual preference on space rather than time insures the presence of a park even in the smallest settlement) where people line dance in the evenings and perform their *tai chi* in the earlymorn.

We also wink at the matrons who blush quickly since it seems they had not been winked at in recent times! The *coup d'merci* is our Pinoy raised eyebrow when giving a non-verbal affirmative response. It tickles long dormant funny bones. At least, one is not slapped on the face like in Venezuela where the gesture has sexual overtones. Or, the Chinese are forgiving of an old *lao ye ye* (grandpa). Still, they do get jarred into thinking that there is more to life a life of laughter rather than be intensely preoccupied in adding more renminbi to one's purse!

It was our return to the city that presented the spectacular view of Manzhouli nestled in a lower indentation on the grassland of Hulunbier, shining like a jem of a Far Eastern Russian city (population 300K), patterned after Eastern Europe's best, but under the increasingly disappearing blue skies in the Nei Menggu prairie.

In a world where increasingly, the global interdependence on the health of the planet has finally reached the "gross" question of how much some places will be paid not to develop commercially remaining pristine rain forests, we may ask the same question of places that still have wide open spaces, on what can be done to conserve and sustain the life forms in them. Nei Menggu hosts 50 percent of the known bird species in China, so the protection of heretofore taken-for-granted species, and their habitats, is gaining attention.

Hulun Lake still has a lot of pristine qualities to it, but the countryside is inundated with urban visitors whose habits of living with nature are hardly exemplary.

For now, we are grateful for the chance to see a country's attempt to catch-up, and in some respects, to lead the world into the 21st century. It appears that our journey from *Mukden to Manzhouli* has a few stops into Mother Nature's heavily laden, overburdened and over utilized sustaining arms.

All of yesterday, thanks; all of tomorrow, yes; all of today, let it be!

BOYCOTT

From Page 10

arrangement. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Philippines maintain that a multilateral resolution involving other nations should be the proper way to resolve territorial disputes between China and smaller nations.

Playing mind games, and in line with their grand scheme to possess the Philippines' energy resources, it is now China's officials accusing Filipino fishermen of trespassing when they fish in their traditional fishing spots which are well within the Philippines' 200 mile EEZ.

Escalating their presence in Philippine territory, China has engaged in defiant activities meant to test the Philippines' resolve in defending against China's intrusion and also to elicit a test reaction from its giant ally, the United States.

Fleets of Chinese fishing vessels escorted by gun boats now blatantly enter into Philippine waters taking rare turtles, lobsters, fishes and live corral. The Philippines cannot stop them because it has no matching gunboats of its own.

A few weeks ago, the Philippine government reported that "a small Philippine fishing boat was accidentally rammed by a Chinese transport vessel which according to a Philippine government report resulted in one fisherman dead and four missing."

Understandably, avoiding a one-sided military confrontation, the incident was downplayed by the Philippine government. The fact is that it is practically impossible for two boats to collide in the wide open sea, especially so because Chinese transport vessels are equipped with modern sonar navigational equipment which can easily detect nearby boats.

The Chinese boat also did not stop to help the fishermen which suggests that this incident was not accidental. The four missing Filipino fishermen were never found. That means not one dead fisherman but five.

China also has recently unilaterally established "Three Sands City" and announced that Panatag or Scarborough Shoals are part of this city's territory which it will manage.

China appears to be arrogantly thumbing its nose at the United Nations and the world by ignoring international law and instead has simply decided to play by its own rules based on Mao Zedong's Little Red Book philosophy of "Power comes from the barrel of the gun."

China's officials are leading the good Chinese people toward a very dangerous course of action. Other countries of the world are beginning to be aware of, concerned and angered by China's war baiting and energy resource grabbing actions. In June 2011, The United States Senate passed a resolution condemning China's use of force against smaller nations in the West Philippine Sea and affirmed the use of its military might against Chinese aggression.

Aside from the United States, the rest of the world including influential countries such as Russia, France, UK, Italy, Brazil, Japan, India, Israel, the Middle East nations, etc.—will soon realize that it serves their interests and the interest of the world—to restrain China from its blatant abuse of power.

Her rapid rise to become the second largest economy in the world is the result of international corporations successfully outsourcing their manufacturing activities to China. By doing so, companies simplify their operations, avoid labor problems and lower overhead costs. They are then able to focus on marketing activities.

While this overall business model has resulted in tremendous profits for many companies, it has also resulted in massive layoffs in their home countries. The United States and other industrialized countries are now faced with hundreds of thousands of jobless people who are dependent on welfare payments for their survival. This situation cannot and should not be allowed to continue.

Well-meaning citizens of the world should rightly be happy about the new found prosperity of the Chinese people. For so long, they have wallowed in poverty.

However, China's government must recognize that with great power and wealth comes the responsibility of dealing fairly and in a friendly manner with other nations—including smaller countries like the Philippines and Vietnam. If it is to gain the respect and friendship of other nations—China should not act like a neighborhood bully using goon tactics stealing property that belongs to others.

But militarist elements within China's government are intent on rattling their sabers—amassing war ships, equipment and armaments with their new wealth. They are also calling to "punish the Philippines militarily" for daring to challenge China's territorial claim on the whole South China Sea.

Resorting to a military might based policy meant to coerce and intimidate less powerful nations and forcing them to give up their valuable resources—which is the policy now being used by China on the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, and other surrounding countries—is now building up so much global antipathy and anger against China. Justifiably so.

Shortsighted military minded Chinese leaders who think that oppressing smaller nations and stealing their resources—will not have serious long term consequences—should learn from the lessons of history. By continuing with this irresponsible reckless policy, China is surely channeling itself towards an inevitable deadly confrontation with a powerful grouping of nations including the United States and its powerful allies.

China's government's best move to serve the interest of its people is to behave like a civilized nation: Stop bullying smaller nations. Honor international laws. Respect territorial and property rights. Help poorer nations, promote world peace and help create a better world. If she does all these, then China will truly become a great nation – honored and respected by the citizens of the world.

Meanwhile, while she is still in a grab and take mode, in self-defense, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, and other smaller bullied countries—must ask for help from the world's community of nations.

In his State of the Nation, President Simeon Benigno Aquino in no uncertain terms—condemned China's blatant intrusion in Philippine territory. He affirmed the resolve of Filipinos to fight for what is theirs. However, he gave no indication of what specific actions must be undertaken to stop the hungry dragon from devouring the Philippines' marine and energy resources. He stated that it was a difficult problem and his government is looking for solutions.

What should smaller nations do against China' bullying grab of its marine territories and energy resources?

Here's my take on this:

1. The governments of these small countries must reach out toward one another and together file in the ITLOS complaints against China's intrusion into its territories. China may refuse to submit itself to the ITLOS' jurisdiction but that by itself is an admission to the world that it is engaged in wrongful intrusion and resource grabbing actions. World opinion will turn against China leading to serious sanctions from the global community.

2. These smaller countries should be aggressively involved in lobbying with the different countries of the world through its ambassadors and through state visits in condemning China's actions and not be shy in asking for some financial or military equipment aid – to defend against China's aggression.

3. Support the worldwide boycott China products campaign endorsed by environmentalists, peace advocates, food safety adherents, labor unions, and other groups—which will put pressure on China to stop bullying and claiming other nation's resources.

A boycott by the Philippines alone or by smaller countries will hardly dent China's economic armor. But if the world is made aware of its immoral bullying ways and how massive outsourcing of corporate manufacturing operations has led to the starvation of families of millions of workers all over the world—well-meaning citizens of the world will support this important campaign.

They will look to buy locally made or equivalent products from other countries. The less the world buys from China, the less funds it has to build up and maintain its army. The less effective it can be in carrying out its aggressive militarist tendencies.

The world's corporations must bear their heavy responsibility to humanity of looking out for our future and not be governed solely by the profit motive. More than any other factor, their outsourcing strategy is responsible for China's rapid rise as an economic and military power. They must now play an important role in influencing the future of the world and humanity by removing their manufacturing operations in China and returning these to their home countries or relocating elsewhere.

China's militaristic elements are a danger not only to the Philippines and other smaller countries but also to the whole world—and a danger to its own good people.

The citizens of the world love so many things Chinese including its great food, its marvelous art and its great philosophers like Lao Tzu, Confucius, and others. They also love the Chinese people. It is China's nationalistic military oriented officials who espouse policies based on conquering other nations by force and grabbing valuable resources—that ought to be condemned. These are the bloodthirsty cold-hearted types—Chinese or otherwise—who bring so much suffering to the world and to their own people.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

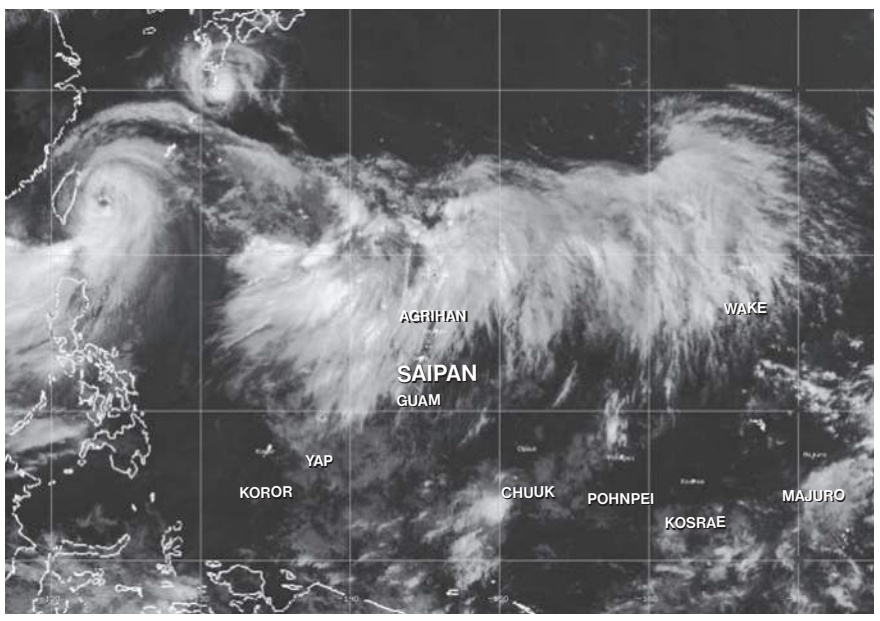
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼71
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲95	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Showers	▲71	▼60
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲82	▼70
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼58
Pusan	Windy	▲87	▼80
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲94	▼78
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches eastward across 23N130E through a weak circulation near 22N147E to end near 20N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are in two adjacent large areas. One area is west of the Mariana Islands between 10N and 23N from 133E to 144E. The second area across the Northern Marianas and from near Iwo To island to Wake Island is between 15N and 25N from 144E to 168E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 147E to 152E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Majuro across Butaritari and Tarawa between the equator and 6N from 170E to 175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:55 PM	4:45 AM
Thursday	6:43 PM	5:45 AM
Friday	7:28 PM	6:42 AM
Saturday	8:10 PM	7:37 AM
Sunday	9:30 PM	9:19 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple claims Samsung copied iPhone technology

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—An attorney for Apple told a jury Tuesday that bitter rival Samsung faced two options to compete in the booming cellphone market after Steve Jobs introduced the iPhone to critical acclaim in 2007: Innovate or copy.

Samsung chose to copy, making its smartphones and computer tablets illegal knockoffs of Apple's popular products, attorney Harold McElhinny claimed.

Samsung "has copied the entire design and user experience" of Apple's iPhone and iPad, McElhinny told a jury during his opening statement at the patent trial involving the world's two largest makers of cellphones.

In his opening statement, Samsung attorney Charles Verhoeven countered that the South Korean company employs thousands of designers and spends billions of dollars on research and development to create new products.

"Samsung is not some copyist, some Johnny-come-lately doing knockoffs," he said.

Verhoeven asserted that Apple is like many other companies that use similar technology and designs to satisfy consumer demands for phones and other devices that play music and movies and take photographs.

For example, he said several other companies and inventors have filed patent applications for the rounded, rectangular shape associated with Apple products.

"Everyone is out there with that basic form factor," Verhoeven said. "There is nothing wrong with looking at what your competitors do and being inspired by them."

A verdict in Apple's favor could lead to banishment of Samsung's Galaxy products from the U.S. market, said Mark A. Lemley, a professor and director of the Stanford Program in Law, Science, and Technology.

A verdict in Samsung's favor, especially if it prevails on its demands that Apple pay its asking price for certain transmission technology, could lead to higher-priced Apple products.

The witness lists of both sides are long on experts, engineers and designers and short on familiar names. Apple CEO Tim Cook is not scheduled to testify.

AP

An Apple customer uses an Apple iPhone 4S at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif. Thursday, July 19, 2012.

On Tuesday afternoon, Apple designer Christopher Stringer wrapped up the first day of testimony discussing his role in helping create the company's iPhone and iPod during his 17 years at the company.

Dressed in a tan suit, the bearded and long haired designer said because of Apple's desire to create original products, he and his co-workers surmounted numerous engineering problems such as working with the products' glass faces in producing both products over a number of years. Stringer said he was upset when he saw Samsung's Galaxy products enter the market.

"We've been ripped off, it's plain to see," Stringer said. "It's offensive." Trial resumes Friday with the testimony of Apple senior vice president for marketing Philip Schiller.

Cupertino-based Apple Inc. filed its lawsuit against Samsung Electronics Co. last year and is demanding $2.5 billion in damages, an award that would dwarf the largest patent-related verdict to date.

The case marks the latest skirmish between the two companies over product designs. A similar trial began last week, and the two companies have been fighting in other courts in the United Kingdom and Germany.

In the patent case, U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh last month ordered Samsung to pull its Galaxy 10.1 computer tablet from the U.S. market pending the outcome of the patent trial. However, she barred Apple attorneys from telling jurors about the ban.

Apple lawyers argue there is almost no difference between Samsung products and its own, and that the South Korean company's internal documents show it copied Apple's iconic designs and its interface.

Samsung counter-claims that Apple copied its iPhone from Sony. In addition, Samsung alleges Apple is using some of Samsung's own inventions without payment, such as a computer chip at the heart of the iPhone.

Samsung lawyers also stressed the company has been developing mobile phones since 1991, long before Apple jumped into the market in 2007.

Gas hits $3.50 a gallon after 5 pct. jump in July

By SANDY SHORE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Gasoline is at $3.50 per gallon for the first time this summer after a sharp run-up in July.

The price of gas gained 17 cents per gallon, or 5.1 percent this month. It was the first monthly increase since March. The nationwide average was last at $3.50 per gallon on June 19.

AAA said Tuesday that about 4 cents of that 17-cent gain can be attributed to ethanol costs that jumped 17 percent in July on record high corn prices. Most fuel sold for passenger cars and pickups today is 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent gas.

Drivers had enjoyed a long stretch of declining prices at the pump as oil fell from more than $100 per barrel in March to below $78 by late June. The average price at the pump fell by 60 cents per gallon in about three months. But oil rose 13 percent from its June low on renewed concerns of supply disruptions in the Middle East and the usual increase in demand in the warmer months. Oil ended July at $88.05 per barrel.

AAA said the gain in July was the biggest for the month since the auto club started keeping records in 2000. Many drivers likely remember gas hitting an all-time high of $4.11 in July of 2008, but the price was back to $3.90 per gallon by the end of that month as the global economic slowdown became more ominous.

AAA predicted that gas prices likely will remain flat or climb slightly in August and then fall when the summer driving season comes to a close after Labor Day.

The high price for gas this year was $3.936 per gallon on April 6 when oil topped $100 per barrel. As the global economy weakened in the spring, oil fell nearly 30 percent. Gas eventually dropped to $3.326 per gallon on July 2.

Demand for gas is still weaker than a year ago as consumers watch their spending. Growth in the U.S. economy slowed to 1.5 in the second quarter and the unemployment rates remains stuck above 8 percent.

US judge strikes down EPA water rules for mines

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency overstepped its powers by setting up water-quality criteria for coal mining operations in Appalachia, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton in Washington ruled that the EPA infringed on the authority given to state regulators by federal clean- water and surface-mining laws. A coal mining industry coalition sued the EPA and Administrator Lisa Jackson, and the lawsuit was joined by West Virginia and Kentucky.

The ruling represents the latest setback to the Obama administration's attempts to crack down on mountaintop removal coal mining.

Last year, the EPA revised standards issued in April 2010 by tightening guidelines on the practice of dumping waste from surface mine blasting into Appalachian valley waterways. Critics say that practice destroys the environment. The mining industry defends it as an efficient way to produce cheap power and employ thousands in well-paying jobs.

The EPA had written that the fundamental premise of its new guidelines was that "no discharge of dredged or fill material may be permitted" under any of three conditions: if the nation's waters would be "significantly degraded"; if it causes or contributes to violations of a state's water quality standard; or "if a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment."

The National Mining Association, one of the plaintiffs, denounced the guidelines as a "jobs destroyer" and hailed Walton's decision as a way to get miners back to work "by allowing the state permitting agencies to do their jobs."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM's ads aren't getting the job done

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors' ads just aren't getting the job done. Since the company left bankruptcy three years ago, its ads haven't boosted sales much. The company's biggest campaign, "Chevy Runs Deep," has failed to generate buzz. And now, GM has forced out its star marketing chief just as it launches two key vehicles. The lackluster ads and loss of marketing head Joel Ewanick raise doubts about GM's ability to improve sales longer term. Experts say that even though it's making better cars and trucks, advertising has failed to get the message across. Despite spending upwards of $4 billion a year on marketing, GM hasn't been able to dent the perception that other brands are better. "GM continues to have an image problem, which really isn't fair because their products are vastly improved," says Rebecca Lindland, an analyst with IHS Automotive, an industry consulting firm.

Google buying social-media startup Wildfire

NEW YORK (AP)—Google is buying a company that specializes in social media marketing as it intensifies competition with Facebook for ad dollars and attention. The company, Redwood City, Calif.-based Wildfire, helps businesses such as Cirque du Soleil and Spotify manage social media efforts across the Internet. It's an important area for Google as people spend more time on social networks such as Facebook and as advertisers follow them. Google's social network, Google Plus, hasn't had the traction that Facebook Inc. enjoys. Wildfire will let Google play a role whether the ad campaign is on Google Plus, Facebook, Twitter or elsewhere.

Japan utility gets $12.8B nuclear crisis bailout

ONAGAWA, Japan (AP)—The Japanese operator of the nuclear power plant devastated in last year's disasters received a 1 trillion yen ($12.8 billion) bailout Tuesday, putting it under government ownership, while international experts visited another plant that survived the tsunami's impact. Tokyo Electric Power Co. apologized for the "inconvenience and anxiety" caused by the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in northeastern Japan, and for raising electricity charges to cover the costs of dealing with the crisis. The company faces massive compensation demands from those forced to evacuate and whose land and products were contaminated by radiation leaks following the crisis that began March 11 last year when Japan's northeast was hit by a massive earthquake and tsunami.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,008.68	1,379.32	2,939.52
-64.33	-5.98	-6.32
-0.49%	-0.43%	-0.21%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9779	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7543	Philippine Peso	41.9992
British Pound	0.6439	Indian Rupee	55.4017	Singapore Dollar	1.2656
Canadian Dollar	1.0208	Indonesian Rupiah	9,460.7	South Korean Won	1,142.9
Chinese Yuan	6.3155	Japanese Yen	79.4281	Swiss Franc	0.9798
Euro	0.8158	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1830	Taiwan Dollar	29.9760
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2562	Thailand Baht	31.7259

Nation

Back to campaigning for Romney after uneven trip

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wrapping up a stumble-marred overseas trip, Mitt Romney pivoted quickly into a three-month stretch to the election on Tuesday with a new feel-good television ad. Aides simultaneously stoked speculation about his vice presidential pick.

The economy was Romney's primary text abroad as well as at home. "We could probably learn something from what's happening right here," the former Massachusetts governor said of Polish policies shortly before boarding his chartered jet for the flight back to the U.S. He arrived in Boston early Tuesday evening.

Advisers accompanying him said he would resume direct criticism of President Barack Obama's record soon enough, after observing a mini-moratorium while on foreign soil. Yet a new television commercial suggested another immediate priority was to close a likeability gap in the polls.

Shorn of any criticism of Obama, the ad appears designed to introduce Romney to voters in battleground states who know little or nothing about his personal background except what they've seen and heard in unflattering commercials aired by Democrats.

In the ad, Romney speaks of his years in private business, in government and as the head of the Olympic Games in Salt Lake City a decade ago and says, "I want to use those experiences to help Americans have a better future."

AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney with wife Ann bows to Polish WWII veterans and a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp prior to laying a wreath at the Warsaw 1944 Uprising monument in Warsaw, Poland, Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

In the final hours of his trip, in Warsaw, the Republican extolled the Polish economy as a model for the rest of the world in an era of slow growth or worse, and he simultaneously sought to limit the political fallout caused by comments he made earlier on a stop in Israel.

"The world should pay close attention to the transformation of the Polish economy" since the end of communist rule more than two decades ago, he said in a speech in the Polish capital city. "A march toward economic liberty and smaller government has meant a march toward higher living standards, a strong military that defends liberty at home and abroad and an important and growing role on the international stage.

"Rather than heeding the false promise of a government-dominated economy, Poland sought to stimulate innovation, attract investment, expand trade and live within its means," he added.

It was thinly veiled criticism—one of several instances on the trip—of the policies Obama has pursued while in office, and Romney was slightly less veiled in a Fox News interview. He did not mention that joblessness in Poland is over 12 percent, roughly half again as much as in the United States.

While in Warsaw, Romney laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and paid tribute to the hundreds of thousands of Poles who died in a World War II uprising against the Nazis. Both are traditional gestures for dignitaries visiting Poland.

With just under 100 days until the election, the presidential race remains a tight one, likely to be decided by a relative sliver of undecided voters who live in eight or so states that remain competitive. Romney heads to one of them on Thursday, when he resumes traditional campaigning with an appearance in the Denver area.

His time to pick a running mate is dwindling, with the Republican National Convention set to open on Aug. 27 in Tampa, Fla. His campaign unveiled an app for smartphones that officials said would "serve as the campaign's first official distribution channel" for the news of his choice. Separately, Republican officials noted an announcement could come any day

As for one of the controversies on his trip, Romney said in the interview with Fox before leaving Europe that he hadn't been speaking about "the Palestinian culture or the decisions made in their economy" in his remarks earlier in the week that prompted one Palestinian official to question whether his views were racist. At a fundraiser with Jewish donors in Jerusalem, Romney had said their culture was part of what had allowed them to be more economically successful than the nearby Palestinians. He made no mention of the fact that Israel has controlled the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem since capturing them in the 1967 war, a presence that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund both say limits the economy's potential for growth there.

Obama team sees promise in 3rd party candidacies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most Americans have never heard of Virgil Goode, a former party-switching congressman with a distinctive Virginia drawl who conceivably could decide the presidential election. But he is well known to President Barack Obama's team of political advisers.

Goode served six terms in Congress from Virginia and is gathering signatures to appear on the ballot in his home state as the presidential candidate from the Constitution Party. He's already on the ballot in more than a dozen other states with an anti-immigration, pro-term limit platform he hopes makes a dent with the electorate. It's not likely to be much of a dent, but enough in Virginia for Obama campaign officials to take close notice of his potentially helpful candidacy.

Goode is one of several third-party presidential candidates who will appear on ballots across the country this fall. But within the Obama camp he is considered one of two who could tilt the race by pulling votes away from Republican challenger Mitt Romney. The other is Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson, a former two-term Republican governor of New Mexico whose presence on the ballot could make a difference in the presidential contest in states such as New Mexico and Colorado.

Neither candidate is considered enough of a national threat to draw comparisons to Ross Perot, whose independent campaign in 1992 attracted nearly 19 percent of the vote and whom President George H.W. Bush still blames for costing him his re-election. But Democrats see Goode and Johnson as this year's Ralph Nader, whom they still blame for Al Gore's loss to George W. Bush in 2000. Nader's liberal Green Party candidacy only attracted 2.7 percent of the national vote, but in decisive Florida, his total was greater than the 537 votes that separated Bush from Gore.

Despite that history, in most modern elections, third-party candidates haven't swayed the results, and even those who poll strongly early eventually fizzle in the end.

Still, in a national contest like this year's where Obama holds slight leads or is running virtually even with Romney in key battleground states, even a sliver of the vote in a crucial state could determine the outcome. Obama's team has scenarios whereby Obama can win states like Virginia and Colorado with less than 50 percent vote with an assist from Goode and Johnson, respectively.

NY couple, 85, to remarry 48 years after divorce

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—They got hitched while still in their teens, divorced 20 years and four children later, and are getting remarried after nearly a half-century apart.

For Lena Henderson and Roland Davis, both 85 years old, the second time around is finally here. The couple plans to get married again on Saturday, with four generations on hand to see it happen.

"It's every child's dream, every child who has ever been in a family where divorce has occurred, that your parents would come back together," their youngest daughter, Renita Chadwick, said Tuesday as wedding preparations were in full swing.

"We are all so ridiculously excited. We're like little children again," said Chadwick, herself a grandmother.

Henderson and Davis met as teenagers in Chattanooga, Tenn., and were married by a justice of the peace. There was no reception or honeymoon.

"Oh no," Henderson recalled with a laugh. "He went to work and I went home." Davis was a hotel bellhop at the time, about to begin a career in the military.

This time around, a church wedding is planned, at Elim Christian Fellowship Church in Buffalo, followed by a reception at an Amherst restaurant.

AP

Roland Davis and Lena Henderson, both 85, kiss as they pose for a photo in West Seneca, N.Y., Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

Still no honeymoon trip, though.

"I'm just happy that we're here," said Davis, who recently moved to suburban Buffalo from Colorado, where he was living alone following the death of his second wife in January. Henderson also was widowed after re-marrying.

Davis proposed to Henderson over the phone around Easter and she accepted, even though they hadn't seen each other since a family funeral in 1996. Before that, the two hadn't been face-to-face since splitting up in 1964, though they had stayed in touch and kept up with each other's lives through the children.

Their oldest daughter, Johnnie Mae Funderbirk, had been urging her father to return to New York since his wife's death.

Davis was receptive, especially to the idea of reconnecting with Henderson.

"I had always kind of had that in mind, mostly because of the children," he said. "You never forget someone that you cared for at one time or another."

ACROSS THE NATION

Ailing Calif. nuke plant cost: $165 million so far

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The tab for the long-running crisis at the San Onofre nuclear power plant in California has hit at least $165 million, and it would cost $25 million more to get one of the damaged reactors running at reduced power, officials said Tuesday. Financial records released by Edison International— the parent company of operator Southern California Edison— provided a sober assessment of the troubles at the seaside plant, where malfunctioning steam generators damaged scores of tubes that carry radioactive water. The plant has not produced power since January. In a conference call with Wall Street analysts, Edison International Chairman Ted Craver left open the possibility that the heavily damaged generators in the Unit 3 reactor might be scrapped. It's also possible the plant will never return to its full output of electricity, unless the four generators are replaced.

Ohio teen suspected as drug 'czar' admits guilt

LEBANON, Ohio (AP)—A 17-year-old high school student accused of being a drug "czar" with six teenage lieutenants admitted Tuesday that he was guilty of the charges against him at his first appearance in juvenile court. The thin, bespectacled teen had the choice to admit to or deny two felony drug trafficking charges against him in Warren County Juvenile Court in Lebanon. Those options are the juvenile court's version of pleading guilty or not guilty. Judge Mike Powell warned the teen before he admitted guilt that he could potentially be in prison until he turns 21.

Passenger finds needle in sandwich on flight

TORONTO (AP)—Air Canada says a passenger found what appears to be a sewing needle in a catered sandwich on board a flight from Victoria, British Columbia, to Toronto. Peter Fitzpatrick, a spokesman for the airline, said late Tuesday that the airline is "working closely with our caterers to ensure heightened security measures have been put in place." Fitzpatrick says the airline contacted the caterers immediately after Monday's discovery. He says a police investigation is under way and they have not received any further reports of similar incidents.

Asia

PH gets bids for S. China Sea exploration

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines received bids Tuesday to explore for oil and gas deposits in two South China Sea areas also claimed by China, which already had protested the potential contracts as an infringement on its territorial rights.

The Philippines has dismissed China's claims, saying the offshore areas lie well within the Philippines's internationally-recognized 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone, where it has sole right to exploit resources under a U.N. convention.

China is claiming to own waters that lie very near the Philippines, including one area just 79 kilometers (49 miles) northwest of Palawan province, according to Energy Undersecretary Jose Layug Jr.

The two oil exploration areas for which the bids were received are more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) from the nearest Chinese coast, he said.

"We don't see any problem with what we have done," Layug told a news conference. "These areas are clearly within the sovereign rights of the Philippines."

Energy officials would evaluate the bids and award the contracts within 100 days, he said.

The Department of Energy received bids from the Philippine firm Helios Petroleum and Gas Corporation and a consortium of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation, along with Philex Petroleum and PetroEnergy Resources Corporation, Layug told The Associated Press. A fourth bid also received Tuesday involves an undisputed area.

After the Philippines invited investors to bid for the right to explore in the contested waters, the Chinese Embassy delivered a protest note in July last year.

"The Chinese government urges the Philippine side to immediately withdraw the bidding offer in areas 3 and 4, refrain from any action that infringes on China's sovereignty and sovereign rights," China said in a diplomatic note to Manila, adding that the Philippine action "cannot but complicate the disputes and affect stability in the South China Sea."

The two areas lie near another contested offshore region called the Reed Bank, where two Chinese ships tried to drive away a Philippine oil exploration vessel in March last year. A Filipino general deployed two planes to check the incident but the Chinese ships have left when the aircraft reached the bank. The Philippines protested the incident as one of several intrusions by China into its territorial waters that reignited tensions starting last year.

Beijing has been asserting its territorial claims more aggressively as its economic and diplomatic muscle has grown. It virtually claims the entire South China Sea, including offshores areas believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits and which straddle some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

The other claimants include Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei. Washington has declared the peaceful resolution of the conflicts and freedom of navigation in the contested region to be in its national interest. Many fear Asia's next major armed conflict could erupt in the disputed waters.

Japan's pro-bomb voices rise as nuke power debated

TOKYO (AP)—A contentious debate over nuclear power in Japan is bringing another question out of the shadows: Should Japan keep open the possibility of making nuclear weapons—even if only as an option?

It may seem surprising in the only country devastated by atomic bombs, particularly as it marks the 67th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and Nagasaki three days later. The Japanese government officially renounces nuclear weapons, and the vast majority of citizens oppose them.

But as Japan weighs whether to phase out nuclear power, some conservatives, including some influential politicians and thinkers, are becoming more vocal about their belief that Japan should have at least the ability to make nuclear weapons.

The two issues are intertwined because nuclear plants can develop the technology and produce the fuel needed for weaponry, as highlighted by concerns that Iran is advancing a nuclear power program to mask bomb development.

"Having nuclear plants shows to other nations that Japan can make nuclear weapons," former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba, now an opposition lawmaker, told The Associated Press.

Ishiba stressed that Japan isn't about to make nuclear weapons. But, he said, with nearby North Korea working on a weapons program, Japan needs to assert itself and say it can also make them—but is choosing not to do so.

Such views make opponents of nuclear weapons nervous.

"A group is starting to take a stand to assert the significance of nuclear plants as military technology, a view that had been submerged below the surface until now," says "Fukushima Project," a book by several experts with anti-nuclear leanings.

Adding to their jitters, parliament amended the 1955 Atomic Energy Basic Law in June, adding "national security" to people's health and wealth as reasons for Japan's use of the technology.

"The recognition that both nuclear issues must be addressed is heightening in Japan," said Hitoshi Yoshioka, professor of social and cultural studies at Kyushu University. The link between the two is "becoming increasingly clear."

Yoshioka sits on a government panel investigating the nuclear disaster caused by the March 11 tsunami last year. The subsequent meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant have called into question the future of nuclear power in Japan, in turn raising concern among some bomb advocates.

Most proponents don't say, at least not publicly, that Japan should have nuclear weapons. Rather, they argue that just the ability to make them acts as a deterrent and gives Japan more diplomatic clout. The issue dates to the 1960s. Historical documents released in the past two years show that the idea of a nuclear-armed Japan was long talked about behind-the-scenes, despite repeated denials by the government.

AP

This July 16, 2012 photo released by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command (AFP WESCOM) shows an aerial surveillance photo of structures made by China at Panganiban reef, also known as Mischief reef, at South China Sea, located off western Palawan province, Philippines.

Electricity grids fail across half of India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Electric crematoria were snuffed out with bodies inside, New Delhi's Metro shut down and hundreds of coal miners were trapped underground after three Indian electric grids collapsed in a cascade Tuesday, cutting power to 620 million people in the world's biggest blackout.

While Indians were furious and embarrassed, many took the crisis in stride, inured by the constant—though far less widespread—outages triggered by the huge electricity deficit stymieing the development of this would-be Asian power.

Hospitals, factories and the airports switched automatically to their diesel generators during the hours-long cut across half of India. Many homes relied on backup systems powered by truck batteries. And hundreds of millions of India's poorest had no electricity to lose.

"The blackout might have been huge, but it wasn't unbearably long," said Satish, the owner of a coffee and juice shop in central Delhi who uses only one name. "It was just as bad as any other five-hour power cut. We just used a generator while the light was out, and it was work as usual."

The crisis was the second record-breaking outage in two days. India's northern grid failed Monday, leaving 370 million people powerless for much of the day, in a collapse blamed on states that drew more than their allotment of power.

At 1:05 p.m. Tuesday, the northern grid collapsed again, energy officials said. This time, it took the eastern grid and the northeastern grid with it. In all, 20 of India's 28 states—with double the population of the United States—were hit in a region stretching from the border with Myanmar in the northeast to the Pakistani border about 3,000 kilometers (1,870 miles) away.

Hundreds of trains stalled across the country and traffic lights went out, causing widespread jams in New Delhi. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked office workers to go home and rushed generators to coal mines to rescue trapped miners.

Sahiba Narang, 17, was taking the Metro home because school bus drivers were on strike, "but this power failure's messed up everything."

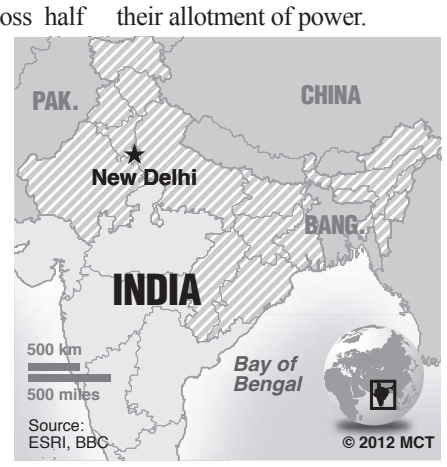
S.K. Jain said he was on his way to file his income tax return when the Metro closed. The 54-year-old held his head, distraught that he would almost certainly miss the deadline. Hours later, the government announced it was giving taxpayers an extra month to file because of the chaos.

Blackouts in India

More than 700 million people are without power in India when more electricity grids failed for a second consecutive day.

States reporting power outages

• Three of India's five electricity grids have failed



ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan, US sign troop supply deal

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan and the United States signed a deal regulating the shipment of American troop supplies to and from Afghanistan on Tuesday, prompting Washington to agree to release over $1 billion in frozen military aid. The developments represent the formal end to a crisis between the two countries that started in November when Pakistan closed its border to supplies meant for U.S. and other NATO troops in Afghanistan in retaliation for American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Pakistan reopened the route running overland through its territory from the southern port of Karachi to the Afghan border in early July after the U.S. apologized for the deaths, which the Americans said were an accident. But it took several more weeks for the two sides to finalize the new agreement.

UN envoy visits site of Myanmar ethnic clashes

SITTWE, Myanmar (AP)—A U.N. human rights envoy went to western Myanmar on Tuesday to investigate communal violence in which at least 78 people were killed and tens of thousands lost their homes. Tomas Ojea Quintana's evaluation is likely to be regarded as a yardstick for measuring the reforms undertaken by elected President Thein Sein after Myanmar ended decades of repressive military rule. The violence that flared last month between the ethnic Rakhine Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya has subsided, but human rights groups and Islamic nations say the Rohingya community faces ongoing abuse and needs protection.

'Dead man' returns to Bangladesh after 23 years

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—For 23 years, his family in Bangladesh thought he was dead. But then an anonymous caller informed a local official in May that he was alive and in jail in Pakistan. On Tuesday, 52-year-old Moslemuddin Sarkar, who had been missing since 1989, returned home. Pakistani officials freed him from the jail in Karachi on Monday night and immediately deported him. Sarkar, bearded and sharp-eyed but ravaged by fatigue, walked out of the concourse in Dhaka's airport and was hugged tightly by his brother, Sekandar Ali. "I can't believe you are alive; you are back!" Ali said. Sarkar remained silent, tears rolling down his cheeks.

World

Syria's Aleppo running low on food amid siege

BEIRUT (AP)—Food and cooking gas were in short supply and power cuts plunged homes into darkness as soldiers and rebels battled Tuesday to tip the scales in the fight for Aleppo, Syria's largest city and the current focus of its civil war.

Life for Aleppo's 3 million residents was becoming increasingly unbearable as a military siege entered its 11th day. While rebels seized two police stations, Syrian ground forces pummeled the opposition strongholds of Salaheddine and Seif al-Dawla in the city's southwest, activists said. Government helicopters also pounded those neighborhoods.

"The regime couldn't enter the neighborhoods so they were shelling from a distance with helicopters and artillery," said Mohammed Nabehan, who fled Aleppo for the Kilis refugee camp just across the Turkish border some 30 miles (50 kilometers) away.

Nabehan and others said it was a struggle to find food.

"The humanitarian situation here is very bad," Mohammed Saeed, an activist living in the city, told The Associated Press by Skype. "There is not enough food and people are trying to leave. We really need support from the outside. There is random shelling against civilians," he added. "The city has pretty much run out of cooking gas, so people are cooking on open flames or with electricity, which cuts out a lot."

Days of shelling have forced many civilians to flee to other neighborhoods or even escape the city altogether. The U.N. said Sunday that 200,000 had left Aleppo.

As the bloodshed mounted, the Arab League chief accused President Bashar Assad's regime of atrocities.

"The massacres that are happening in Aleppo and other places in Syria amount to war crimes that are punishable under international law," Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby said in Cairo.

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Washington is "not contemplating any unilateral steps" in Syria. There are fears that military intervention could exacerbate the war. Syria's close ties to Iran and the Islamic militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon mean that the conflict has the potential to draw in the country's neighbors.

The battle for Aleppo is among the most significant of the 17-month-old Syrian uprising. If the regime loses its grip on Aleppo, that could be a tipping point in the civil war.

"It remains the case that for its own legitimacy and credibility, the Syrian government must regain control of Aleppo," said David Hartwell, senior Middle East analyst at the defense and intelligence group IHS Jane's. "It also remains the case that the opposition, not fixated yet on holding territory, intend to make the Syrian army pay a high price as they do this." Although the rebels are outgunned by the regime's heavy weapons, they have captured a number of government tanks in operations against army positions outside the city, activists say. Saeed said they planned to use them in future operations.

Rami Abdul-Rahman, director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said rebels seized the Salihin and Bab al-Neyrab police stations Tuesday in battles that lasted several hours. He said the fighting killed about 40 police officers and soldiers as well as a general.

Still, the regime appears to have regained the momentum in the days since a July 18 bombing that killed four top Assad lieutenants. Many observers expect government forces to drown out the rebel run on Aleppo as they did in Damascus last week.

The official Syrian news agency said government forces were pursuing the "remnants of armed terrorist groups" in Aleppo's Salaheddine neighborhood and inflicting heavy losses.

The government refers to its opponents as terrorists, saying the uprising is being driven by foreign extremists—not Syrians seeking reform. Although the conflict began with mostly peaceful protests, the spiral of violence has appeared to radicalize at least some of the opposition. There are signs of militant jihads joining the fray.

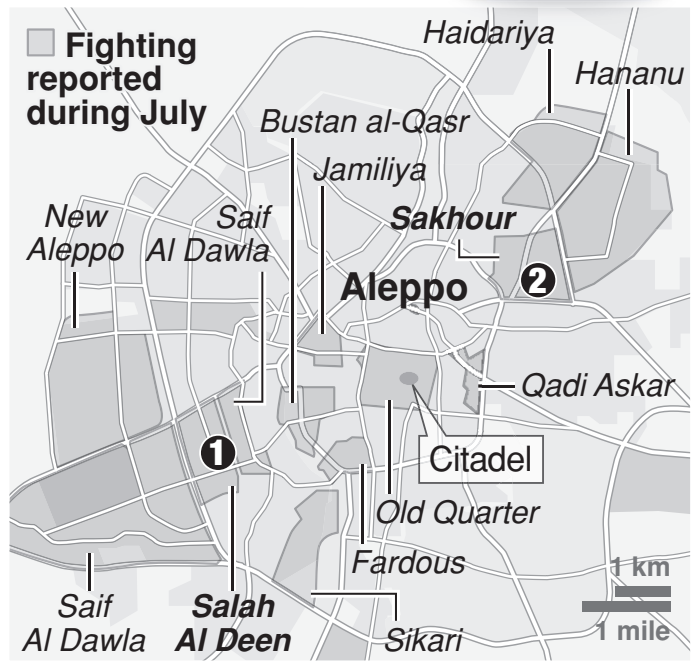
A high-ranking Western diplomat familiar with the intelligence assessments on Syria said there is a great deal of concern in the West over the flow of foreign militants into Syria to fight a jihad, or holy war, against Assad's regime.

Battle for Aleppo rages

Anti-government activists have reported recent fighting in at least six neighborhoods in the city as rebels battle forces loyal to Syrian president Bashar Assad.

❶ Salah Al Deen Both sides claim control of this district, site of intense fighting for three straight days; rebels from Free Syrian Army have used that district as a base; it's near a route government reinforcements might take

❷ Sakhour Heavy shelling and helicopter gunship attacks reported



Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, BBC, AP Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

Mexico file drug charges against 3 generals

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican prosecutors formally filed drug charges Tuesday against four high-ranking army officers, including three generals and a lieutenant colonel.

They are the highest-ranking Mexican army officials arrested in at least 15 years, and allegedly provided protection for the Beltran-Leyva drug cartel. They were detained in May and have been held under a form of house arrest.

The Attorney General's Office said charges of "organized crime to further drug trafficking" were lodged against retired generals Tomas Angeles Dauahare and Ricardo Escorcia, as well as active service Gen. Roberto Dawe Gonzalez. Retired Lt. Col. Silvio Hernandez Soto faces the same charge.

The office did not mention specifics of the case lodged against the four along with an army major. But charged in the same case is U.S.-born drug trafficker Edgar Valdes Villarreal, alias "La Barbie," who worked for the Beltran Leyva cartel until it began to break up with the death of leader Arturo Beltran Leyva in a 2009 shootout with marines.

The investigation against them the officers is based on a case from 2009, the Attorney General's Office said.

The previous highest-ranking army official arrested was Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, then head of Mexico's anti-drug agency, who was arrested in 1997 and later convicted of aiding deceased drug lord Amado Carrillo Fuentes.

President Felipe Calderon named Angeles Dauahare as assistant defense secretary in 2006. He left the post in 2008, when he retired.

Dawe Gonzalez was assigned to a military base in the western state of Colima.

Escorcia retired from active service in 2010 after reaching mandatory retirement age, but previously served as head of the military base in Cuernavaca, a city just south of the Mexican capital that has been considered Beltran Leyva territory.

Arturo Beltran Leyva was killed in a shootout at an apartment complex in Cuernavaca in 2009. Mexico's marines were reportedly called in to look for the capo after its army appeared to be slow to act on U.S. intelligence indicating the drug lord's location, according to a leaked U.S. Embassy diplomatic cable from late 2009.

Angeles Dauahare's lawyer, Alejandro Ortega, said the general told his wife shortly after his arrest that he is being accused of taking money from associates of Valdez Villareal, who was allegedly top hit man for Beltran Leyva. Valdez Villareal was arrested in 2010.

Ortega said his client denies the charges, and supports himself with an army pension and a house and an apartment he owns. He said the general's wife also owns a house she inherited.

A few senior military officers have been arrested for alleged links to traffickers during Mexico's long struggle to control the cartels.

Retired Gen. Juan Manuel Barragan Espinosa was detained in February for alleged links to organized crime and Gen. Manuel Moreno Avina and 29 soldiers who were under his command in the town of Ojinaga, across the border from Presidio, Texas, are being tried on charges of torture, homicide, drug trafficking and other crimes.

More than 47,000 people have been killed in drug violence since Calderon deployed thousands of soldiers to drug hotspots, according to government figures.

Israel to end draft exemptions for ultra-Orthodox

JERUSALEM (AP)—In an step that could intensify a major rift among Israelis, the defense minister on Tuesday ordered the army to prepare for a universal draft of ultra-Orthodox Jewish men.

Many in the insular and rapidly growing community say they would rather go to jail than comply with an end to the decades-long draft exemptions that have caused increasing outrage in the country.

Ehud Barak gave defense officials a month to craft a plan to put the new draft procedure into practice, trying to buy time in a last-ditch effort to find an agreed solution. His order came just hours before the expiration of a law that has granted tens of thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews exemptions from military duty and followed a Supreme Court ruling against extending that arrangement.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israel's Channel 2 TV Tuesday night that the army would begin widening its list of recruits immediately.

"Starting tomorrow, there's a new law about equal service. The Israeli military will decide whom to draft, how many to draft—and it will draft," Netanyahu pledged.

Ultra-Orthodox leader Meir Porush, a former lawmaker, said drafting his people would unleash a "civil war." He said the military neither needed nor wanted to be flooded with devoutly religious conscripts.

"The Israeli military is not ready, won't be ready and doesn't want to be ready" to draft ultra-Orthodox Jews, Porush said. Privately, some defense officials agreed.

What began 60 years ago as exemptions for a few hundred top rabbinical students to symbolically rebuild the great Jewish houses of learning obliterated in the Nazi Holocaust of World War II has mushroomed—partly due to a very high birthrate—into get-out-of-the-army cards for 60,000 able-bodied Israeli adult men. Most other Jews are drafted into the military at age 18, with men serving three years and then decades of yearly reserve duty, and women serving about two years.

WORLD BRIEFS

Seif Gadhafi says trial in Libya would be murder

AMSTERDAM (AP)—The son of killed Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi says that he wants to be tried for alleged war crimes in the Netherlands, and a trial in Libya would be tantamount to murder. In a filing by defense lawyers at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands late Tuesday, Seif al-Islam Gadhafi said "There will certainly be no justice in the case if the prosecution is based on evidence from torture." "I am not afraid to die but if you execute me after such a trial you should just call it murder."

French parliament votes in sexual harassment law

PARIS (AP)—France's parliament on Tuesday approved legislation that makes sexual harassment a crime, addressing problems many say have existed for decades in the country. The new law sets three levels of harassment, with the most serious—in cases where the harasser has authority over the victim, the victim is younger than 15 years old, or multiple people carry out the harassment—punishable by up to three years in prison. The National Assembly passed the law after the Senate voted earlier in the day. Its passage comes more than two months after a court struck down the previous statute, saying it was too vague and failed to protect women.

Focus

US vets mix regret, detachment on Iraq violence

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Just months after the U.S. military departed, violence in Iraq is increasing. Hundreds of people have died in recent weeks in bombings and drive-by shootings, some claimed by al-Qaida insurgents.

How do the U.S. troops who fought in Iraq for nearly nine years, and in December completed withdrawing from what was supposed to be an emerging democracy, view the turmoil? What do they feel it means to the legacy of their time on the ground? Associated Press reporters who cover military bases and communities in the U.S. asked some of those veterans.

More than 1.5 million Americans served in the Iraq War, and these are just a handful of voices from among those ranks, offering a range of perspectives. Some worry the sacrifices may have been for nothing. Others have put all news of Iraq behind them as they focus on their civilian lives. Some take a long view and say history has yet to decide the war's outcome. Here are their views.

Former Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Rothlein, from League City, Texas, fought in a unit in Fallujah in 2004, going building to building hunting insurgent snipers in one of the bloodiest battles of the war. He joined the Marines fresh out of high school, emboldened to do something for his country after the 9/11 terror attacks. He left the service six years ago and Iraq's unrest this year leaves him wondering why nearly 4,500 American military members died in the war.

"What did we lose our lives for?" Rothlein asks. "We never really saw justice. Sure we took out Saddam but none of the other lives needed to be lost. Iraq's not free. Afghanistan is not free. They're still basically at the same stage as they were when we went in."

"We knew what could happen as soon as the troops pulled out," said Indianapolis Marine veteran Matthew Ranbarger, 27, who fought alongside Rothlein. "They have been fighting each other for thousands of years, before America was even founded. We did our job. There is only so much we can do. They have to do their part now."

Rothlein says he has been comforted by Vietnam veterans, who he says know what it was like to fight in a controversial war with no clear victory, then return home to hear their fellow citizens debate whether it was all worth it. Don't go there, they tell him. Just accept that it is what it is.

Rothlein and several buddies from his unit have suffered bouts of post-traumatic stress disorder. Adjusting to life in the United States would be easier and maybe the nightmares would be less if he could find a sense of purpose in the suffering his unit endured, he said.

"If they (Iraqis) were starting to flourish in a democratic way, it would be like `Mission accomplished. We went over there and it made a difference. We helped the people of Iraq. We made history.' But we didn't make history. We're going to be in the history books for the bloodiest battle in Iraq. But for what? There was no outcome. We may as well have all gotten killed. There's no finish line."

Former Marine 1st Sgt. Todd Kennedy served two tours in Iraq but said he no longer closely follows the news there, especially since his fellow troops have left for another conflict or come home.

After a 22-year military career, Kennedy said he is focusing- on life back home. The 41-year-old is working on dual degrees in history and anthropology at San Diego State University. "For me personally, I have no regrets about the deployments, I have no regrets about the (Iraq) conflict in general," he said. "In any war there are lessons learned. Any war has its skeletons. Any war has its debates, repercussions, its conspiracies. Regardless of whether it was right or wrong to go into there, for me personally, it's not something I did a lot of dwelling on. It's one of those things. The nation called on me, so it was something I had to do."

Army Capt. Lauren A. Cabral helped train Iraqi women in 2007 for a security force in one of Baghdad's most dangerous districts, which she called a historic milestone for women who volunteered because they thought Iraq was getting better.

Cabral said her fellow soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Calvary, witnessed the Adahmiyah district go from a "hopeless state where soldiers and hundreds of local nationals were dying every day, to a hopeful and desired environment. Watching this event unfold for those few days was so inspiring."

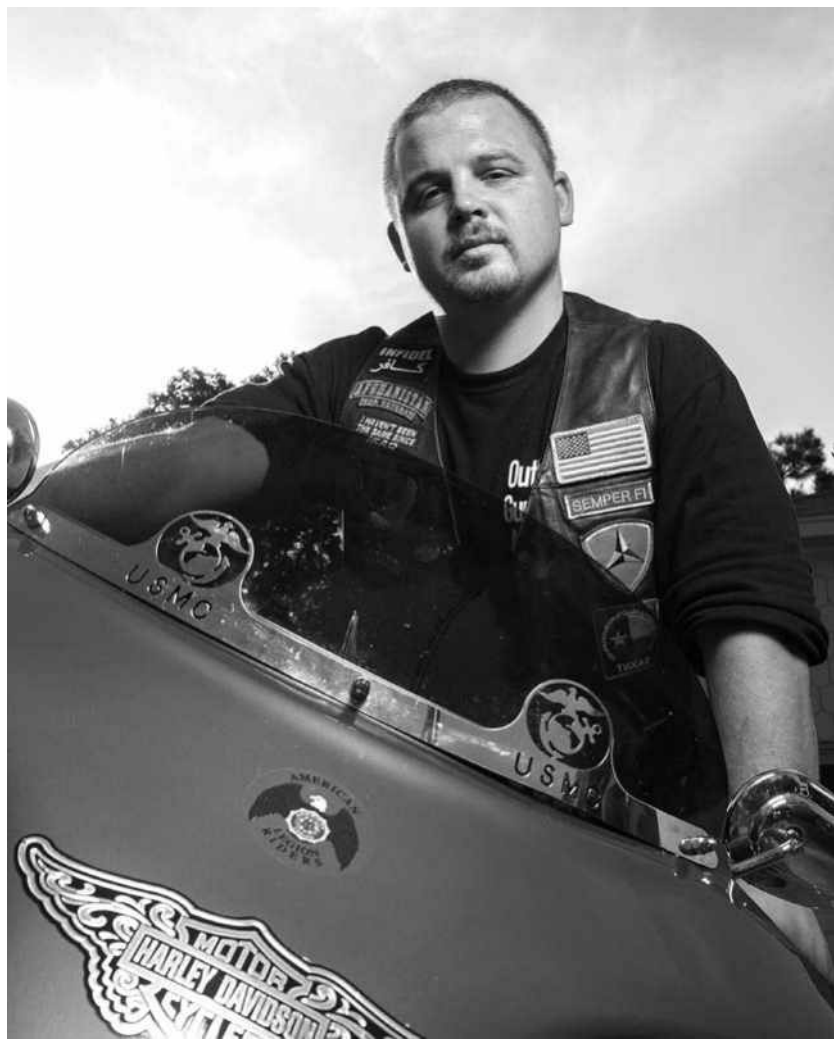
Cabral, from Ft. Stewart, Ga., and now deployed in Afghanistan, said she doesn't know if the renewed violence means Iraq can't achieve stability.

"Most of the reported attacks seem to state that the target is civilians in predominantly Shiite communities. The public sees the events that are catastrophic, can see a possible historic cycle rising again, but what about the noble and accomplished events that are happening in Iraq? Those are the things the citizens of the U.S. need to know about and to ensure us all that the sacrifices that were made by our country were not done in vain," she wrote in an email.

"As a part of the mission in Iraq, the goal was to help stabilize the government to operate in a self-sustainable manner. The tools were provided, systems were in place, and it was time for the U.S. to allow the government to take charge. Of course, this road for them has been a rollercoaster, but we have seen this before in Iraq. This is their time to prove that they truly love their country and have the ability to prevent (and) successfully react to historical violent attacks; we must stop enabling in order to see a change."

Army Staff Sgt. Jesus Lozacruz, of Tustin, Calif., says he survived 11 explosions and 126 missions during his two tours in Iraq, and he tries not to think about the country's troubles. It only compounds his despair over what seemed to him an unnecessary war and brings up haunting memories, like the time he shot and killed an armed woman and child after an ambush.

"It's like there was no purpose," he says. "To me and some of my fellow soldiers, it feels like we gave all this for nothing ... We went there and gave all this just to withdraw out of nowhere? We did all this stuff, set up all kinds of things, and now it's gone, it's trashed."



AP

In this July 26, 2012 photo, Former Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Rothlein poses for a photo in League City, Texas. Rothlein fought in Fallujah in 2004, one of the bloodiest battles of the Iraq war. Iraq's unrest this year leaves him questioning the loss of nearly 4,500 American lives in the fighting. "What did we lose our lives for? We never really saw justice. Sure we took out Saddam but none of the other lives needed to be lost. Iraq's not free. Afghanistan is not free. They're still basically at the same stage as they were when we went in."

"The only time the Iraqis are going to get peace is if someone is going to go there and bring them support again. They're not going to be able to go shopping and not worry about getting blown up in their own town. They're not going to have that tranquility again anytime soon."

The 32-year-old was in his third year at Cal State-Fullerton in 2000 when he dropped out and joined the Army at his mother's request, as a way to keep an eye on his newly enlisted younger brother, Moises.

Lozacruz was excited to be part of the U.S. war on terror when he first went to Iraq with the invading forces in 2003. Soon though, he began to question why the Americans were there. There were no weapons of mass destruction and Lozacruz, trained in logistics, spent a lot of time protecting shipments of oil.

"That's when I started to get disappointed. We're getting shot at like crazy, for what? I never stopped doing my duties, but I didn't agree with it. Our mentality became, we just want to do what we have to do to come home."

He returned from his second tour in July 2007 and has recently been discharged. He works at an auto-parts store, suffers from PTSD, and meets weekly with a psychiatrist. The VA considers him 90 percent disabled.

As an Army Reserve civil affairs officer, Rory Carolan worked mainly with Iraqi civilians south of Baghdad in 2007 and 2008. He saw violence decline as coalition forces surged, allowing a population wracked by war to return to everyday life.

"People moving back, Iraqis making plans for the future, to stay, to open a business, to plant crops, to bring the family back, to bring in a generator and air conditioning—doing peaceful things. The change was quite dramatic," Carolan said.

The surge was generally successful, said the 55-year-old veterinarian. And the increased violence is disappointing, he said in an interview at his farmhouse near Frederick, Md.

"But, you know, is it unexpected? Not by me," Carolan said. "You've kind of got to figure it's going to be an ugly process. It's a new government, a new country, proud people looking for their way by themselves, doing it their own way—and it's not always going to be pretty."

Carolan said he hopes it's just a brief uptick and not a slide back toward civil war, but he doesn't know where Iraq is headed.

"The end of that story is not written," Carolan said.

Brian Castner, a former Air Force captain who led Explosive Ordnance Disposal units that hunted and defused roadside bombs in Iraq during two pre-surge tours, says he doesn't feel any successes are threatened now because he never felt much headway was made during his deployments in 2005 and 2006.

"We didn't have a plan to win and we didn't know what a win looked like and the surge hadn't started yet. So much of what we did was fruitless," said Castner, a 34-year-old married father of four from Grand Island, N.Y., who has just published a book on his Iraq experiences, "The Long Walk."

He said he ignored Iraq news after all his friends who served there returned home.

"The guys you serve with are like family," he said. "Once they're not there anymore, I guess I stopped paying attention."

As an Army Ranger and platoon leader deployed for a year to Iraq in 2007 and 2008, Phillips McWilliams led soldiers searching for roadside explosives, conferred with local Iraqi sheiks to keep the peace and made sure one of the largest oil refineries in central Iraq was secure enough to keep working. Now back in home in Columbia, S.C., and enrolled in law school, the 29-year-old says there was at least one benefit of the war that's unchanged by Iraq's troubles.

"One way to look at it is: We got rid of Saddam Hussein and no one can say that's not a good thing. He was a horrible person, obviously."

McWilliams said he spent a lot of time absorbed in watching news about Iraq after returning stateside for his last year in the Army.

"It used to boggle my mind that people didn't pay attention. It was like, how could people not pay attention? It is such an important thing happening in our time," McWilliams said.

But since he's become involved with law school, a summer of work at a local law firm, and plans for an upcoming wedding, McWilliams said he's found less chance to be so absorbed with fighting in Iraq and in Afghanistan, where some of his Army buddies have been deployed.

"I've just paid less and less attention. I've become exactly like the people I couldn't understand!" he adds with a laugh.

McWilliams said he thinks "not enough time has gone by for historians to decide whether America's involvement there was worth it or not."

"I hope things go well. We lost a lost a lot of people there."

For Maj. Christy Nyland, whose Army unit spent a year training and advising Iraqi military and security forces from fall 2009 to September 2010, the recent eruptions of violence have tested her faith that Iraq will be able to stand on its own. Still, the 37-year-old intelligence officer stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., said she still believes Iraq's democratic government can prevail.

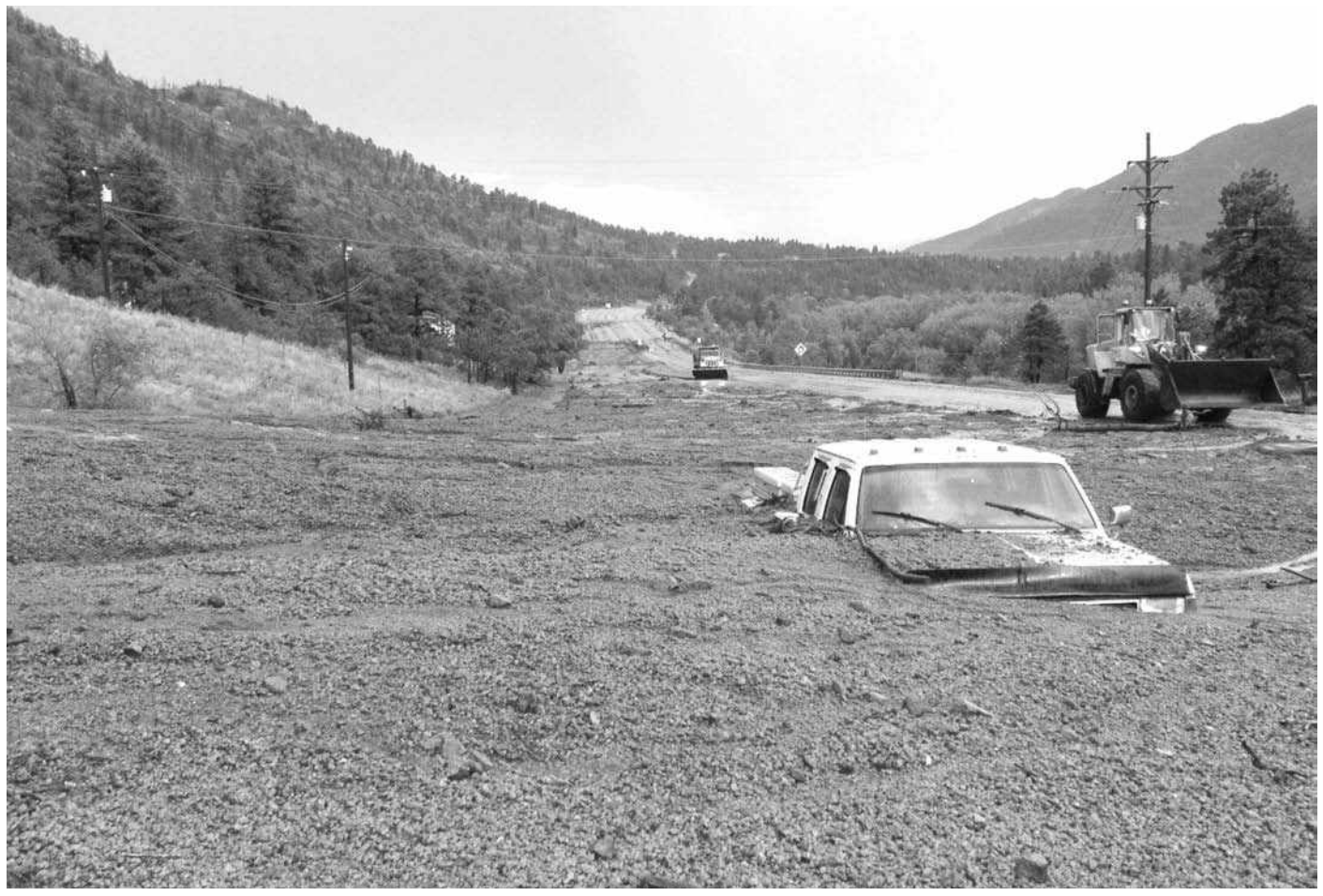
"Sometimes you take it a little personally, because you hate to see this," said Nyland, a New Orleans native who serves as deputy intelligence officer for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Nyland's first tour of duty in Iraq came during the months after Saddam Hussein's army fell and before the focus of the fighting turned to shadowy insurgents whose roadside bombs became the signature weapon of the war.

Environment

Western wildfire recovery likely to take years

By DAN ELLIOTT and SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

In this Monday evening, July 30, 2012 photo provided by the Colorado Department of Transportation, a pickup truck is engulfed by a mudslide on U.S. 24 west of Cascade, Colo. The brown area visible on the mountain at left, behind a row of trees, was burned in the Waldo Canyon wildfire. Authorities are warning people who live in and around the area burned by the Waldo Canyon wildfire to watch out for possible flooding and mudslides triggered by rain which started on Monday.

DENVER (AP)—A once-thriving Colorado neighborhood of homes and healthy trees has been reduced to a barren expanse of ash and debris. Across the state, a river prized for its trout, rapids and pristine water instead flows as an oily, black brew every time rain falls on nearby slopes charred by wildfire.

In New Mexico, the Santa Clara Pueblo is seeking volunteers to fill sandbags for fear the American Indian village of 3,100 will be washed away by runoff from mountainsides left denuded by a blaze last year.

Wildfires across the West are burning homes, businesses, bridges and other infrastructure necessary for everyday life—and the disaster isn't over when the wildfire is snuffed out and the firefighters go home.

Erosion from seared hillsides buries roads in mud and pollutes rivers that supply tap water. The point was driven home earlier this week when a mudslide following heavy rain in Colorado's Waldo Canyon burn area temporarily closed U.S. 24 near Manitou Springs.

Electricity, water and gas lines have to be repaired and recharged. Debris from burned-out homes has to be hauled away and new houses must be built. Even if the work starts while the fire is still burning, experts say recovery can take years and untold millions of dollars simply to make conditions livable again.

Lisa Maser, whose northern Colorado home survived a blaze that destroyed 259 homes and charred more than 136 square miles, now thinks of her life in two periods: before and after the High Park Fire.

"It's very eerie," Maser said of the charred hillsides in her rural neighborhood west of Fort Collins, where the blaze left a layer of fine, sandy black ash, and where flood waters could strand them in the event of a heavy rainstorm. "It's amazing that it got so close."

In Colorado alone, insurers estimate that wildfires have caused some $450 million in damage to personal property, and that number is expected to grow.

Nationally, the U.S. Forest Service is on track for another possible record with nearly $28 million spent so far on burned-area recovery work. The agency spent a record $48 million last year.

Harris Sherman, the USDA undersecretary who oversees the agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, said the federal government tries to get into burned areas as quickly as possible to predict what some of the fallout might be.

"There are not only immediate effects. There are long-term implications to this," Sherman said. "We all need to be aware of the fact that the landscape doesn't restore overnight. It can take years, if not decades."

The number of fires and total acreage burned in the West this summer is roughly within range of the past decade's average. But the fires are bigger, they're burning with greater severity, and they are burning areas where the potential impacts are greater.

The blazes have charred forests and private land near suburban communities, rather than remote wilderness, raising the price tag for a recovery that challenges everyone from homeowners and anglers to forest managers and water plant operators.

In addition to Colorado and New Mexico, burned-area response specialists are working in Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming to finalize contracts for seeding and mulching, stabilize roads and trails, prep culverts for higher flows of water and put up warning signs.

Charred hillsides are vulnerable to erosion during downpours because they have less vegetation to soak up rain, increasing the likelihood of flooding.

Earlier this month, a wall of water rushed down New Mexico's Santa Clara Canyon, washing away months of restoration work done by Santa Clara Pueblo and government contractors. The tribal community had volunteers come from around the state to help fill thousands of sandbags in the wake of last year's massive Las Conchas Fire, and they're in need of the same help this year.

Pueblo Gov. Walter Dasheno has said he fears the next rainstorm could result in a wall of water bearing down on his village.

"In less than 10 days, the rains have wiped out even more trees, brought down more boulders and destroyed some out structures," he said.

National forests and grasslands provide about 20 percent of the nation's water supply, according to the Forest Service, and the cost of treating drinking water increases by about 20 percent for every loss of 10 percent of forest land in a watershed.

Following wildfires in 1996 and 2002, the water utility in Denver spent more than $26 million on restoration, maintenance and dredging, planting more than a quarter of a million trees, building sediment control structures and installing bigger drainage pipes.

The work reinforced the utility's belief in the importance of forest management, Denver Water media coordinator Travis Thompson said.

In 2010, Denver Water entered into a partnership with the Forest Service, called "From Forests to Faucets," to improve forest and watershed conditions. Under the partnership, Denver Water will match the federal government's $16.5 million investment toward restoration projects in priority watersheds critical to Denver's water supply.

An estimated 30,000 cubic yards of debris are expected to be hauled out of one neighborhood near Colorado Springs, where the Waldo Canyon Fire destroyed more than 340 homes and killed a husband and wife.

But the rebuilding process has already begun: Earlier this week, city officials issued the first permit for a homeowner to rebuild, just 14 days after the fire was declared contained.

Joseph Boyd, whose two-story, four-bedroom home at the end of a cul-de-sac burned on June 26, said he looked at other homes but found nothing that appealed to him and his wife. They've since picked out a new, more energy-efficient plan and aim to restore the landscape.

At least eight of the 14 houses on his street intend to return and rebuild, he said.

"I have one neighbor that will not come back. It was pretty traumatizing for them," he said. "I don't blame them, but it's a memory that will fade. You have to move forward, either direction you choose."

Ships told to slow for whales in San Francisco Bay

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Federal officials are asking large ships to slow down near San Francisco Bay to avoid killing the droves of whales feeding near the Northern California coast.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued the advisory Tuesday. It wants large vessels to reduce their speed to 10 knots, or about 11.5 mph, in the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. The U.S. Coast Guard is broadcasting a similar message.

"We can best protect endangered whales from ship strike by working with the shipping industry as well as whale experts, with minimum impacts on maritime commerce," said Maria Brown, the superintendent of NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, in a press release.

The announcements follow the high profile deaths of whales fatally struck by ships in the Bay Area, such as the 47-foot fin whale that washed up near Point Reyes National Seashore in June. John Calambokidis, a Washington-based scientist who has studied ship strikes off the West Coast, estimated that dozens of whales were struck near San Francisco Bay in 2010. Many of these whales, including blue, fin and humpback, are endangered.

AP

In this August 14, 2008 file photo and provided by John Calambokidis, a blue whale is shown near a cargo ship in the Santa Barbara Channel off the California coast. Federal officials are urging large ships to slow down as they approach San Francisco Bay to avoid striking whales, which are crowding the California coast particularly high numbers this year. The notice by the officials with the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary comes after a rare fin whale was found dead last month on the shores of Point Reyes National Seashore, the apparent victim of a ship strike.

The federal officials' requests are not binding, so large vessels like freighters and cruise ships can keep traveling at full speed. The San Francisco Chronicle reported (http://bit.ly/Nv6YsU) that NOAA officials said they would consider more stringently regulating shipping lane traffic if ships fail to slow down.

"We understand that ships are working on extremely tight schedules," Leslie Abramson of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary told the San Francisco Chronicle. "We are trying to deal with the problem proactively, but if there's no cooperation, we could move toward regulatory action."

In response to these deaths, federal maritime officials also have approved a plan to curb ship strikes that includes better whale tracking and rerouting ships. It will likely take effect next year after final review by the United Nations International Maritime Organization.

Life & Style

Gore Vidal, celebrated author, playwright, dies

By HILLEL ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a world more to his liking, Gore Vidal might have been president, or even king. He had an aristocrat's bearing—tall, handsome and composed—and an authoritative baritone ideal for summoning an aide or courtier.

But Vidal made his living—a very good living—from challenging power, not holding it. He was wealthy and famous and committed to exposing a system often led by men he knew firsthand. During the days of Franklin Roosevelt, one of the few leaders whom Vidal admired, he might have been called a "traitor to his class." The real traitors, Vidal would respond, were the upholders of his class.

The author, playwright, politician and commentator whose vast and sharpened range of published works and public remarks were stamped by his immodest wit and unconventional wisdom, died Tuesday at age 86 in Los Angeles.

Vidal died at his home in the Hollywood Hills at about 6:45 p.m. of complications from pneumonia, his nephew Burr Steers said. Vidal had been living alone in the home and had been sick for "quite a while," Steers said.

Vidal "meant everything to me when I was learning how to write and learning how to read," Dave Eggers said at the 2009 National Book Awards ceremony, where he and Vidal received honorary citations. "His words, his intellect, his activism, his ability and willingness to always speak up and hold his government accountable, especially, has been so inspiring to me I can't articulate it."

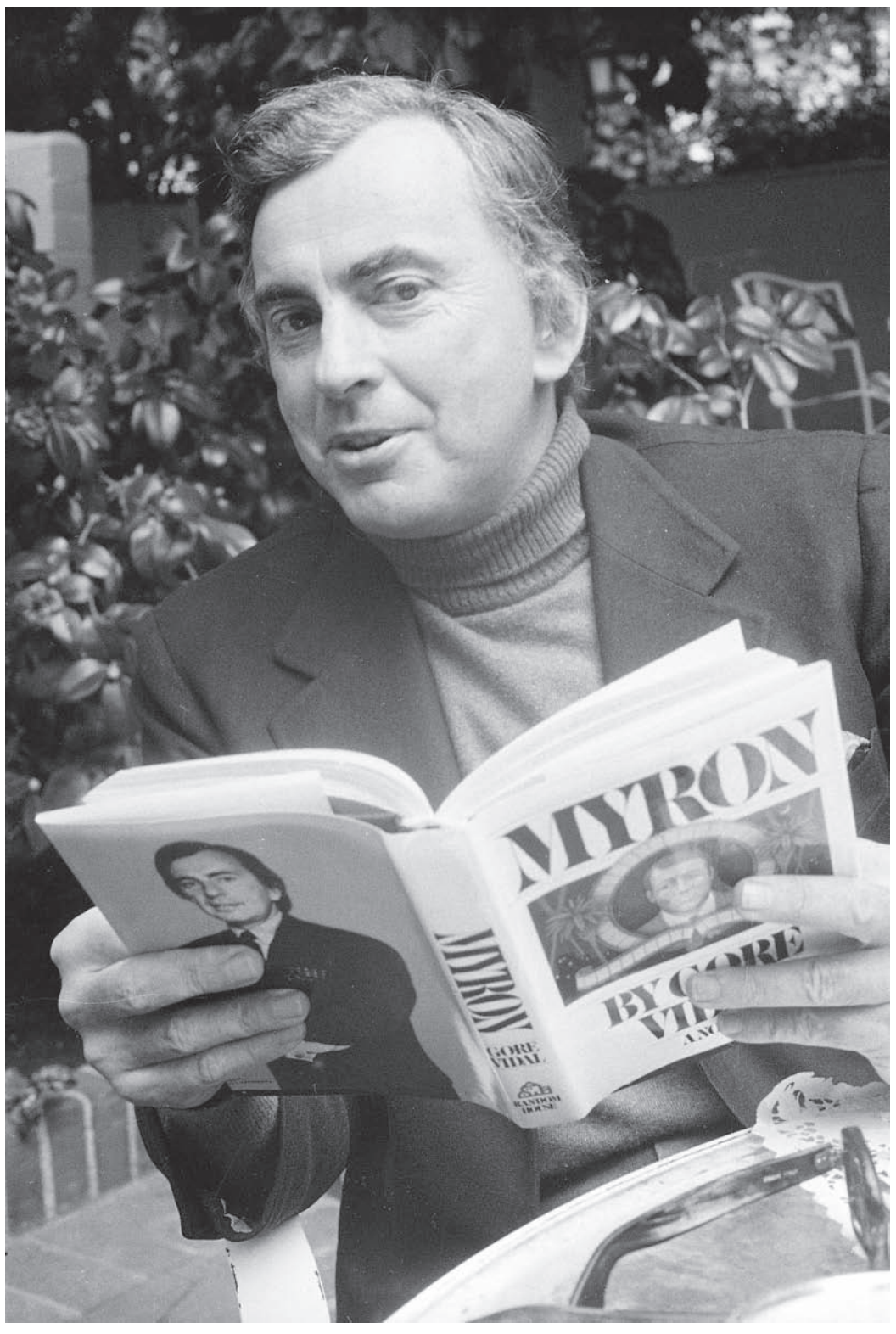
Along with such contemporaries as Norman Mailer and Truman Capote, he was among the last generation of literary writers who were also genuine celebrities—regulars on talk shows and in gossip columns, personalities of such size and appeal that even those who hadn't read their books knew their names.

His works included hundreds of essays, the best-selling novels "Lincoln" and "Myra Breckenridge" and the Tony-nominated play "The Best Man," a melodrama about a presidential convention revived on Broadway in 2012. Vidal appeared cold and cynical on the surface, dispassionately predicting the fall of democracy, the American empire's decline or the destruction of the environment. But he bore a melancholy regard for lost worlds, for reason and the primacy of the written word, for "the ancient American sense that whatever is wrong with human society can be put right by human action."

Vidal was uncomfortable with the literary and political establishment, and the feeling was mutual. Beyond his honorary National Book Award, he won few major writing prizes, lost both times he ran for office and initially declined membership into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, joking that he already belonged to the Diners Club. (He was eventually admitted, in 1999).

But he was widely admired as an independent thinker—in the tradition of Mark Twain and H.L. Mencken—about literature, culture, politics and, as he liked to call it, "the birds and the bees." He picked apart politicians, living and dead; mocked religion and prudery; opposed wars from Vietnam to Iraq and insulted his peers like no other, once observing that the three saddest words in the English language were "Joyce Carol Oates." (The happiest words: "I told you so").

Ralph Ellison labeled him a "campy patrician." Vidal had an old-fashioned belief in honor, but a modern will to live as he pleased. He wrote in the memoir "Palimpsest" that he had more than 1,000 "sexual encounters," nothing special, he added, compared to the pursuits of such peers as John F. Kennedy and Tennessee Williams. Vidal was fond of drink and alleged that he had sampled every major drug, once. He never married and for decades shared a scenic villa in Ravello, Italy, with companion Howard Austen.



AP
This 1977 file photo shows author Gore Vidal. Vidal died Tuesday, July 31, 2012, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 86.

In print and in person, he was a shameless name dropper, but what names! John and Jacqueline Kennedy. Hillary Clinton. Tennessee Williams. Mick Jagger. Orson Welles. Frank Sinatra. Marlon Brando. Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon.

Vidal dined with Welles in Los Angeles, lunched with the Kennedys in Florida, clowned with the Newmans in Connecticut, drove wildly around Rome with a nearsighted Williams and escorted Jagger on a sightseeing tour along the Italian coast. He campaigned with Eleanor Roosevelt and Harry Truman. He butted heads, literally, with Mailer. He helped director William Wyler with the script for "Ben-Hur." He made guest appearances on everything from "The Simpsons" to "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In."

Vidal formed his most unusual bond with Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. The two exchanged letters after Vidal's 1998 article in Vanity Fair on "the shredding" of the Bill of Rights and their friendship inspired Edmund White's play "Terre Haute."

"He's very intelligent. He's not insane," Vidal said of McVeigh in a 2001 interview.

Vidal also bewildered his fans by saying the Bush administration likely had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks; that McVeigh was no more a killer than Dwight Eisenhower and that the U.S. would eventually be subservient to China, "The Yellow Man's Burden."

Christopher Hitchens, who once regarded Vidal as a modern Oscar Wilde, lamented in a 2010 Vanity Fair essay that Vidal's recent comments suffered from an "utter want of any grace or generosity, as well as the entire absence of any wit or profundity." Years earlier, Saul Bellow stated that "a dune of salt has grown up to season the preposterous things Gore says."

A longtime critic of American militarism, Vidal was, ironically, born at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., his father's alma mater. Vidal grew up in a political family. His grandfather, Thomas Pryor Gore, was a U.S. senator from Oklahoma. His father, Gene Vidal, served briefly in President Franklin Roosevelt's administration and was an early expert on aviation. Amelia Earhart was a family friend and reported lover of Gene Vidal.

Vidal was a learned, but primarily self-educated man. Classrooms bored him. He graduated from the elite Phillips Exeter Academy, but then enlisted in the Army and never went to college. His first book, the war novel "Williwaw," was written while he was in the service and published when he was just 20.

The New York Times' Orville Prescott praised Vidal as a "canny observer" and "Williwaw" as a "good start toward more substantial accomplishments." But "The City and the Pillar," his third book, apparently changed Prescott's mind. Published in 1948, the novel's straightforward story about two male lovers was virtually unheard of at the time and Vidal claimed that Prescott swore he would never review his books again. (The critic relented in 1964, calling Vidal's "Julian" a novel "disgusting enough to sicken many of his readers"). "City and the Pillar" was dedicated to "J.T.," Jimmie Trimble, a boarding school classmate killed during the war whom Vidal would cite as the great love of his life.

Unable to make a living from fiction, at least when identified as "Gore Vidal," he wrote a trio of mystery novels in the 1950s under the pen name "Edgar Box" and also wrote fiction as "Katherine Everard" and "Cameron Kay." He became a playwright, too, writing for the theater and television. "The Best Man," which premiered in 1960, was made into a movie starring Henry Fonda. Paul Newman starred in "The Left-Handed Gun," a film adaptation of Vidal's "The Death of Billy the Kid."

Vidal also worked in Hollywood, writing the script for "Suddenly Last Summer" and adding a subtle homoerotic context to "Ben-Hur." The author himself later appeared in a documentary about gays in Hollywood, "The Celluloid Closet." His acting credits included "Gattaca," "With Honors" and Tim Robbins' political satire, "Bob Roberts."

But Vidal saw himself foremost as a man of letters. He wrote a series of acclaimed and provocative historical novels, including "Julian," "Burr" and "Lincoln." His 1974 essay on Italo Calvino in The New York Review of Books helped introduce the Italian writer to American audiences. A 1987 essay on Dawn Powell helped restore the then-forgotten author's reputation and bring her books back in print. Fans welcomed his polished, conversational essays or his annual "State of the Union" reports for the liberal weekly "The Nation."

He adored the wisdom of Montaigne, the imagination of Calvino, the erudition and insight of Henry James and Edith Wharton. He detested Thomas Pynchon, John Barth and other authors of "teachers' novels." He once likened Mailer's views on women to those of Charles Manson's.

See GORE on Next Page

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The Watch
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
A group of guys stumble onto an alien invasion during a faux neighborhood watch meeting where they usually do some male bonding to get away from their dull suburban lives in this sci-fi comedy starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn. Akiva Schaffer directs from a script by Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. Rosemarie DeWitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:45 3:55 7:00 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 12:45 3:55 7:00
Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

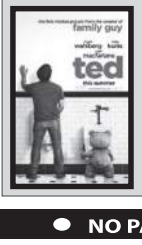
Synopsis
Christopher Nolan's Batman franchise continues with this Warner Bros. release, the third in the series. The story will pick up after the events of The Dark Knight, with Christian Bale returning as the Caped Crusader—this time pitted against the deadly Bane (Tom Hardy) and Selina Kyle, aka Catwoman (Anne Hathaway). Nolan directs from a script he co-wrote with his brother, Jonathan, working off the story by David Goyer. Joseph Gordon-Levitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises
Friday and Saturday 12:55 4:05 7:10 10:15
Sunday thru Thursday 12:55 4:05 7:10
Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 10:10
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:05 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:05
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13



Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

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50 years on, Marilyn's star power shines bright

NEW YORK (AP)—Only 11 years after her death, Elton John sang his ode to Marilyn Monroe. "And I would have liked to have known you, but I was just a kid," went the lyrics. "Your candle burned out long before your legend ever did."

What John didn't know was how much truer his words would ring a few decades later.

Monroe passed away a half-century ago this Sunday, a murky death that remains one of Hollywood's most tantalizing mysteries. But look around: Her legend lives on, more vibrantly than ever. In a development this fiercely ambitious actress surely would have appreciated, the 1950's bombshell has become a 21st-century pop culture phenomenon.

Just flip through a celebrity magazine: Some of-the-moment young starlet or pop singer will be channeling (or outright appropriating) those platinum locks, the bright red lips, moist and slightly parted, and that joyously, almost defiantly curvy figure, sheathed in something skin-tight and glamorous.

AP

In this undated publicity photo courtesy Running Press, Marilyn Monroe is shown wearing a knife-pleated gold lamé gown made from "one complete circle of fabric." She wore this dress in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

Was that Marilyn on the red carpet at last year's Teen Choice Awards? No, it was Taylor Swift, wearing a white halter-style dress just like Marilyn's in "The Seven Year Itch," in which the actress stood atop a subway grate and let the breeze of a passing train lift her skirts. (Oh, and that dress? It sold at auction last year for a mind-boggling $5.6 million, including commission.)

Was that Marilyn in the Dolce & Gabbana ad a while back? No, it was Scarlett Johansson, all white-blonde hair and ruby lips. And there was Charlize Theron in a Dior ad last year, meeting up with the real Marilyn, not to mention Marlene Dietrich and Grace Kelly, via CGI. Magazine spreads have featured Nicole Kidman, Lindsay Lohan, Rihanna, Michelle Williams, Viola Davis and others having their Marilyn moment.

Madonna, of course, has famously appropriated Monroe's look into her image. So have singers Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani. In June, on what would have been Marilyn's 86th birthday, Lady Gaga tweeted "Happy Birthday Marilyn—They'll never take our blonde hair and lipstick," along with a picture of herself, Monroe-like. Nicki Minaj says she's "obsessed with Marilyn Monroe."

Jay-Z serves as exec producer for 'NBA 2K13' game

ATLANTA (AP)—Jay-Z is taking another step into the pro basketball realm: The Grammy-winning rapper and minority owner of the Brooklyn Nets will serve as the executive producer for the coming "NBA 2K13" video game.

2K Sports announced the partnership with Jay-Z on Tuesday. The rapper, who designed the Nets new logo and color scheme, selected 24 songs for the soundtrack, and offered input for the game's interactive in-game menus and other visual presentations.

Jay-Z said in a statement that his involvement was a "unique opportunity" to collaborate and help produce "NBA 2K13," the latest installment of the best-selling basketball video game franchise. Last year's game sold more than 5 million copies.

AP

In this Monday, May 14, 2012 file photo, entertainer Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in Philadelphia.

"This has been a unique opportunity to collaborate with 2K Sports and be a part of one of the best sports video games in history," Jay-Z said. "NBA 2K13 will be the next evolution in sports and basketball culture, and I'm ready to usher in the new era of the franchise."

Some of the songs featured on the game's soundtrack are Jay-Z's "Public Service Announcement," Kanye West's "Amazing," Coldplay's "Viva La Vida," Roy Ayers' "We Live in Brooklyn, Baby," U2's "Shove It," Nas' "The World is Yours" and an instrumental version of Meek Mill's "Ima Boss." Other music acts featured are Too Short, Eric B. and Rakim, The Hours, Phoenix, Puff Daddy and the Family, Daft Punk, Santigold, The Dirty Projectors, Justice and Mobb Deep.

"He's been unbelievably involved," said Jason Argent, vice president of marketing at Take-Two's 2K Sports. "We've had hour-long sessions and his input has been super valuable. He put together an amazing job creating the soundtrack, and was very integral in the creative visual process of the game. He's a true artist."

The game, which will feature Kevin Durant, Derrick Rose and Blake Griffin on the front cover, is expected to go on sale Oct. 2.

GORE

From Page 19

(From this the head-butting incident ensued, backstage at "The Dick Cavett Show.") He derided Buckley, on television, as a "crypto Nazi." He was accused of anti-Semitism after labeling conservative Norman Podhoretz a member of "the Israeli fifth column." He labeled Ronald Reagan "The Acting President" and identified Reagan's wife, Nancy, as a social climber "born with a silver ladder in her hand."

In the 1960s, Vidal increased his involvement in politics. In 1960, he was the Democratic candidate for Congress in an upstate New York district, but was defeated despite Ms. Roosevelt's active support and a campaign appearance by Truman. (In 1982, Vidal came in second in the California Democratic senatorial primary). In consolation, he noted that he did receive more votes in his district in 1960 than did the man at the top of the Democratic ticket, John F. Kennedy.

Thanks to his friendship with Jacqueline Kennedy, with whom he shared a stepfather, Hugh Auchincloss, he became a supporter and associate of President Kennedy, and wrote a newspaper profile on him soon after his election. With tragic foresight, Vidal called the job of the presidency "literally killing" and worried that "Kennedy may very well not survive."

Before long, however, he and the Kennedys were estranged, touched off by a personal feud between Vidal and Robert Kennedy apparently sparked by a few too many drinks at a White House party. By 1967, the author was an open critic, portraying the Kennedys as cold and manipulative in the essay "The Holy Family." Vidal's politics moved ever to the left and he eventually disdained both major parties as "property" parties—even as he couldn't help noting that Hillary Clinton had visited him in Ravello.

Meanwhile, he was again writing fiction. In 1968, he published his most inventive novel, "Myra Breckenridge," a comic best seller about a transsexual movie star. The year before, with "Washington, D.C.," Vidal began the cycle of historical works that peaked in 1984 with "Lincoln."

The novel was not universally praised, with some scholars objecting to Vidal's unawed portrayal of the president. The author defended his research, including suggestions that the president had syphilis, and called his critics "scholar-squirrels," more interested in academic status than in serious history.

But "Lincoln" stands as his most notable work of historical fiction, vetted and admired by a leading Lincoln biographer, David Herbert Donald, and even cited by the conservative Newt Gingrich as a favorite book. Gingrich's praise was contrasted by fellow conservative Rep. Michele Bachmann, who alleged she was so put off by Vidal's "Burr" that she switched party affiliation from Democrat to Republican.

In recent years, Vidal wrote the novel "The Smithsonian Institution" and the nonfiction best sellers "Perpetual War For Perpetual Peace" and "Dreaming War: Blood for Oil and the Cheney-Bush Junta." A second memoir, "Point to Point Navigation," came out in 2006. In 2009, "Gore Vidal: Snapshots in History's Glare" featured pictures of Vidal with Newman, Jagger, Johnny Carson, Jack Nicholson and Bruce Springsteen.

Vidal and Austen chose cemetery plots in Washington, D.C., between Jimmie Trimble and one of Vidal's literary heroes, Henry Adams. But age and illness did not bring Vidal closer to God. Wheelchair-bound in his 80s and saddened by the death of Austen and many peers and close friends, the author still looked to no existence beyond this one.

"Because there is no cosmic point to the life that each of us perceives on this distant bit of dust at galaxy's edge," he once wrote, "all the more reason for us to maintain in proper balance what we have here. "Because there is nothing else. No thing. This is it. And quite enough, all in all."

Vidal is survived by his half-sister Nina Straight and half brother Tommy Auchincloss.

Diana Ross urges privacy for Jackson children

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Diana Ross says the recent turmoil involving Michael Jackson's children and the appointment of a temporary guardian is a private matter and shouldn't be playing out publicly.

The singer writes in a statement to The Associated Press that "all interests are best served if it remains private."

Ross was named in Jackson's 2002 will as a potential guardian for his three children if his mother was not available to serve. A judge suspended Katherine Jackson as the children's guardian last week after a 10-day absence and instructed the temporary guardian, TJ Jackson, to notify Ross of the changes.

Court filings on Friday indicated that Ross' attorney had been given notice.

The 68-year-old singer and Jackson were longtime friends before his death in 2009.

AP

In this Feb. 12, 2012 file photo, singer Diana Ross arrives at the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Michael Jackson's mother plans events in Indiana

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's mother says she is returning to her family's Indiana hometown to celebrate what would have would have been her son's 54th birthday.

An announcement released Tuesday by a representative of Katherine Jackson states the events in Gary, Ind., will be attended by the singer's three children as well.

A candlelight vigil is planned for Aug. 29 outside the family's home on Jackson's 54th birthday.

The celebration is being dubbed: "Goin' Back to Indiana: Can You Feel It?"

Details on the events, including a tribute concert and an event honoring Katherine Jackson are posted on a Facebook page for the event, http://www.facebook.com/jacksonstreet2012.

The Jackson family moved to Los Angeles as Michael and other siblings pursued their burgeoning music careers, but have kept connections to their Indiana hometown.

AP

This Sept. 18, 2011 file photo shows Stephen Colbert at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards Governors Ball in Los Angeles.

Colbert to host concert aboard NYC's Intrepid

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert is hosting another music extravaganza, and this time, he's got missiles.

The comedian announced Tuesday on "The Colbert Report" that he will host a concert on Aug. 10 aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York. Performing will be the Flaming Lips, Santigold, Grandmaster Flash, Grizzly Bear, and the band fun.

Colbert is calling the event "StePhest Colbchella `012: RocktAugustFest." The performances and Colbert's interviews with each act will be shown on "The Report" during the week of Aug. 13.

Colbert quipped in a statement: "Does Bonnaroo have cruise missiles? I think not."

The comedian last year hosted a week of music in his studio, dubbing the event "StePhest Colbchella '011: Rock You Like a Thirst-Icane.

Cuba Gooding Jr. sought on warrant in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans police say an arrest warrant has been issued for actor Cuba Gooding Jr. after an incident at a Bourbon Street bar.

Police said in a news release that a bartender told officers that Gooding was there at 3 a.m. Tuesday when he became upset with other patrons who started asking him to take photographs with them.

The bartender told officers that Gooding pushed her after she asked him to calm down, and again after she told him he needed to leave and police had been called.

Gooding left the bar before police arrived. Police issued an arrest warrant for municipal battery, a misdemeanor.

Gooding's publicist declined comment. The actor is in New Orleans filming "The Butler," a movie about a White House butler who serves eight American presidents.

AP

This May 25, 2012 file photo shows actor Cuba Gooding Jr arriving for the screening of "Cosmopolis" at the 65th international film festival, in Cannes, southern France.

AP

This July 7, 2011 file photo shows British author JK Rowling at the world premiere of "Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part 2," in London.

Rowling webcast will promote new Potter kids club

NEW YORK (AP)—J.K. Rowling's next book is for adults, but she will be on hand this fall to help promote a new club for kids, the Harry Potter Reading Club.

Scholastic Inc. announced Tuesday that Rowling will participate in a live webcast at noon on Oct. 11 from her hometown of Edinburgh, Scotland, taking pre-submitted questions from her young fans. The discussion will take place on scholastic.com/hpreadingclub, the website for an online Potter club launched Tuesday by Scholastic.

The club is designed for schools and libraries and parents. It will include discussion guides, a glossary, interactive features and information on community events. Rowling will contribute original commentary. She has a novel for grown-ups out in September called "The Casual Vacancy."

Brother can't handle the truth a paternity test may reveal

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My younger brother confided that he got a girl pregnant. I'm the only one he has told and it's killing me. The baby is about two months old, and my folks still don't know they could possibly be grandparents. My brother doesn't want to tell them right now, and he also doesn't want a paternity test to see if the baby is his because he doesn't want to face the reality that he could really be a father.

Abby, knowing that I could have a niece out there is killing me because there are so many children who harbor resentment toward their absentee fathers. I really want to do the right thing and get my parents involved, but if I do I'll lose my brother's trust. If I don't tell, I will have to live with the fact that I am abetting my brother being another stereotypical deadbeat dad. Please help.

AUNT IN DISGUISE

DEAR AUNT IN DISGUISE: How old is your brother? From your description, he is acting like a 14-year-old. Have another talk with him and tell him that because he is old enough to father a child, he's also old enough to accept responsibility for his actions. The time to tell his parents everything and start supporting his child in every way he can is now.

Of course, before making any announcements, he should be sure the baby is actually his. A paternity test will let him off the hook if he isn't the father. So give him a deadline to have the test done, and if it shows he is the baby daddy, set another one for him to inform your parents or YOU WILL. The longer the delay, the harder it will be.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently discovered that my mother has been purchasing catalog items using my name and not paying for them. I have confronted her, but she denies it even though the items are in her home. My mother is much better off financially than I am and has no need to use my credit.

I have spoken to the companies and had mixed results. Some have agreed to put the bill in her name, others refused. At this point, I don't know what to do. Any advice would be appreciated.

JOANNA IN BROOKLYN, N.Y.

DEAR JOANNA: Your mother's behavior is shameful. Talk to your credit card companies and ask for new credit cards. If this is allowed to continue, your mother will destroy your credit. Tell her that you expect her to pay the charges she has incurred immediately, and you want proof of payment. Warn her that if it doesn't happen, you will inform the fraud division of your local police and let them deal with her. Then follow through.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 and have a problem. My friends are jealous of me. They say I'm spoiled rotten. I honestly don't think I am that spoiled, and I love my friends dearly. I am bothered by their rude comments. How do I ask them to stop or should I just ignore it?

UNSPOILED IN INDIANA

DEAR UNSPOILED: The next time they say it, say: "It hurts my feelings when you say that. A spoiled person is someone who doesn't appreciate what she has—and I appreciate EVERYthing I have. Especially friends like you."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

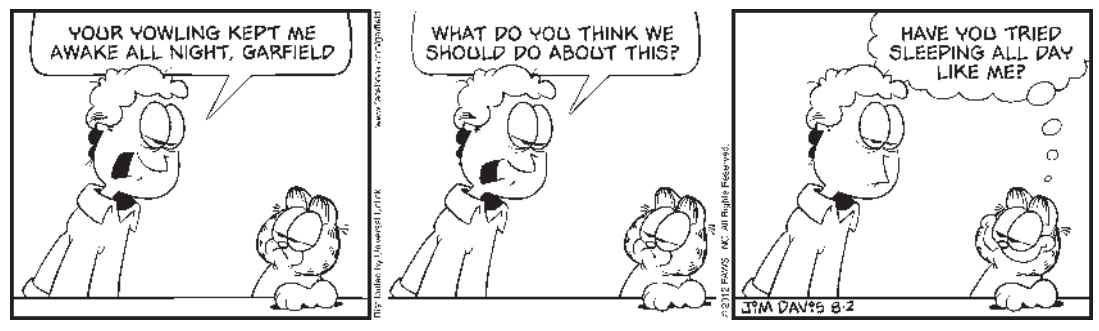
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

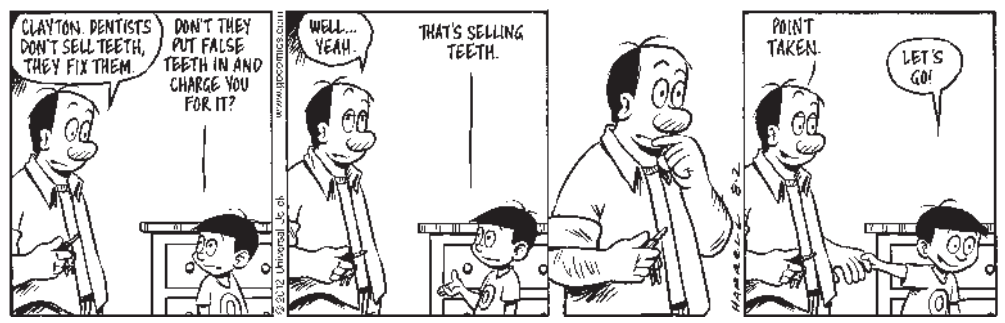
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


YOUR YOWLING KEPT ME AWAKE ALL NIGHT, GARFIELD
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THIS?
HAVE YOU TRIED SLEEPING ALL DAY LIKE ME?
JIM DAVIS 8-2

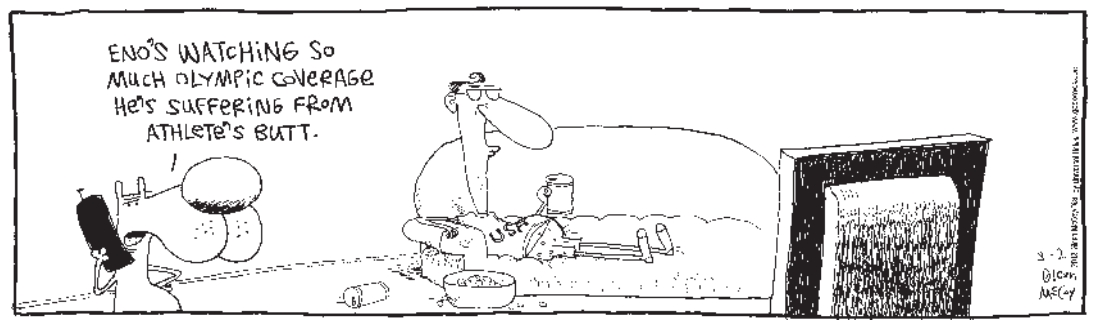
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON. DENTISTS DON'T SELL TEETH, THEY FIX THEM.
DON'T THEY PUT FALSE TEETH IN AND CHARGE YOU FOR IT?
WELL... YEAH.
THAT'S SELLING TEETH.
POINT TAKEN.
LET'S GO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Toothpaste type
4 Pom-pom
8 Decisive defeat
12 Foreman opponent
13 Frizzy coiffure
14 Therefore
15 Titanic aid
17 Dropped
18 Right angle
19 Type of newspaper
21 Starbucks supply
24 Caustic solution
25 In times past
26 Tariff
28 Brilliance
32 Make 21-Across, in a way
34 Cage component
36 Ocean motion
37 Big rigs
39 Dine
41 Sly critter
42 Apprehend
44 Collection of synopses
46 1945 conference site
50 Crony
51 Leading man?
52 Career-long
56 Philbin's ex-partner
57 Burn somewhat
58 Neither mate
59 TV cook Paula
60 Picnic invaders
61 Ram's ma'am

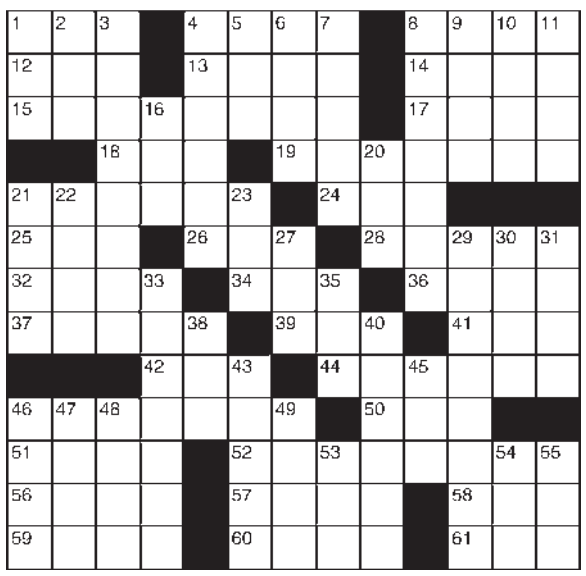
DOWN

1 "My — Sal"
2 Quarterback Manning
3 Mature organism
4 Pad
5 Venusian vessel?
6 "Animal House" group
7 Sum
8 Mirror
9 Dunkable treat
10 Wrinkly fruit
11 Snitched
16 Sprite
20 "See ya"
21 Uppercase
22 Curved molding
23 Listener
27 Greek consonants
29 Ship's safety rope
30 Commotions
31 Libretto
33 Relative
35 Future blossom
38 Blue
40 Highlands musicians
43 Lightweight wood
45 Roscoe (Sl.)
46 Crony, in the old West
47 Garfield's pal
48 Recording
49 Carriage
53 Obese
54 Cut the grass
55 Before

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	E	A		S	H	O	O		A	G	E	S
O	W	L		H	A	W	K		C	O	O	P
M	E	T		A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	A
P	R	O	U	D			A	T	C			
			S	O	C	K		S	P	A	T	E
B	O	T	S	W	A	N	A		T	R	O	T
A	V	E		S	T	A	B	S		I	O	N
B	E	E	R		S	V	E	T	L	A	N	A
A	N	N	U	L		E	T	R	E			
			M	E	G			E	X	T	O	L
T	O	P	B	A	N	A	N	A		A	C	O
E	V	I	L		A	L	U	M		U	R	L
D	A	N	C		W	E	B	S		T	E	A

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sam Worthington, 36; Kevin Smith, 42; Mary-Louise Parker, 48; Peter O'Toole, 80.

Happy Birthday: Move full speed ahead. You can reach your destination and beyond if you stay focused. Let your imagination take over and lead you down a path that will allow you to explore new personal and professional endeavors. Partnerships will play a heavy role in your life and can help spur on what you want to accomplish. Your numbers are 3, 10, 23, 28, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put your skills to work and you will find a way to make extra cash. Contact people or organizations that can help you excel. Love and romance are in the stars, and a closer bond with someone special should be your goal. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Patience will help when dealing with difficult people. Don't let stubbornness set in and ruin your plans. Listen to an experienced person offering you advice that can help you avoid a costly mistake. Work hard and say little. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Speak up and share your options. Plenty of offers will come in if you sell your ideas convincingly. Love and romance are in the stars, and taking a moment to share with someone special or to meet someone new should be scheduled. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Reconsider what you need and what you can do without. Budgeting and downsizing will help you get back on track and ease your stress. Don't keep secrets, especially when they pertain to your financial future. Reassess your situation. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional issues should be dealt with swiftly so you can move forward and accomplish your personal and professional goals. A trip or change of scenery will do you good and lead to favorable alterations in how or where you live. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Maintain your position and the quality of service you offer. Now is not the time to make a mistake or renege on a promise. Protect your reputation, your assets and your position. Don't let a personal relationship interfere with your work. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't miss out because of laziness. Finish what you start and you will impress someone interesting. Networking and socializing will lead to personal and professional partnership possibilities. A job opportunity can change your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a secretive approach to whatever you are doing, and you will be able to maintain control and avoid someone copying you. Don't overspend to make someone happy. Money can't buy love. Let your intuition guide you. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take care of business. There is money to be made and there are deals to be formulated if you take the time to see matters through. Don't give in to pressure when you know in your heart what needs to be done. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Hold out until you have all the information you need to make a sound decision. Someone is likely to stray from the original plan. Ulterior motives may disrupt your position and your future. Prepare to change your strategy if necessary. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Embrace change and face any challenges head-on. Stretch your skills and strive to incorporate what you can do into new formats. Romance is heading your way, and updating your image will give you added confidence and charisma. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It may be difficult to keep a secret. Try not to disappoint someone counting on you. Too much of anything will backfire, leaving you in a precarious position. Focus on helping others, not seeing what you can get for nothing. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, entertaining and incredibly gifted. You are inventive and adventuresome.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1				5		2		
	2		3	7			4	
8						9		6
					2			
6				9				1
			7					
5		8						7
	9			8	4		3	
		2		1				4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	1	3	6	9	2	8	4
2	4	6	1	7	8	3	5	9
8	3	9	4	2	5	7	6	1
9	2	7	8	1	6	4	3	5
5	6	4	7	9	3	8	1	2
1	8	3	2	5	4	9	7	6
4	1	2	5	3	7	6	9	8
6	7	5	9	8	2	1	4	3
3	9	8	6	4	1	5	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RASPBERRY KETONES **Solution: 8 letters**

S	S	C	M	S	I	L	O	B	A	T	E	M	N	B
E	U	A	Y	F	I	R	U	P	L	U	S	A	E	R
I	P	P	R	O	T	E	I	N	P	R	T	N	N	E
R	P	S	P	I	V	A	L	U	E	U	E	A	Z	A
R	R	U	V	L	E	D	R	C	R	F	B	G	Y	K
E	E	L	V	F	E	E	O	A	I	D	O	E	M	D
B	S	E	A	T	F	M	L	T	O	A	T	M	E	O
P	S	S	O	F	M	E	E	M	B	I	T	E	S	W
S	A	X	E	E	V	Z	I	N	S	L	L	N	T	N
A	N	C	N	E	S	N	O	T	T	Y	E	T	E	I
R	T	D	L	S	A	O	S	R	S	T	L	N	I	T
S	E	S	A	L	D	E	D	M	D	I	A	Z	D	I
D	I	G	E	S	T	I	V	E	O	U	E	Z	N	S
L	A	C	I	M	E	H	C	F	O	R	M	U	L	A
S	R	E	N	R	U	B	T	A	F	F	I	B	E	R

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Abdominal, Acids, Benefit, Blends, Bottle, Breakdown, Buzz, Capsules, Chemical, Daily, Detox, Diets, Digestive, Dose, Dr. Oz, Effects, Enzyme, Fat Burner, Fiber, Foods, Formula, Fruit, Levels, Management, Meal, Metabolism, Natural, Plus, Protein, Pure, Purify, Raspberries, Recommended, Safe, Supplement, Suppressant, Tests, Value, Vitro

Yesterday's Answer: Truffles

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 28, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 (or all 36) for $6.95 each, plus handling, payable to Universal Uclick, 33 cents per book for first-class mail, $1 each for media mail or pack. Send to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free, 1-800-591-6469. Order online at puzzles.com. Contains 48 puzzles, 6 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size.

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Lee steers Phillies past Nationals, 8-0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Philadelphia's Cliff Lee showed his value to the team amidst swirling trade rumors, pitching seven scoreless innings to steer the Phillies to an 8-0 win over the Washington Nationals on Tuesday.

On the same day the Phillies traded outfielders Shane Victorino to Los Angeles and Hunter Pence to San Francisco, one of the Phillies' other former All-Stars heavily involved in trade rumors — Lee — excelled.

Lee (2-6) allowed just one walk and struck out seven for Philadelphia, which snapped a three-game losing streak.

He also performed with the bat, hitting a two-out RBI single in the fourth inning. Lee stole second, his second career steal, before scoring on Jimmy Rollins' fourth career inside-the-park home run

Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg (11-5) allowed a season-worst six earned runs.

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Cliff Lee delivers in the first inning at Nationals Park during a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Tuesday, July 31, 2012, in Washington.

AP

Reds 7, Padres 6

In Cincinnati, Ryan Ludwick drove in four runs with a homer and a single, helping Cincinnati edge San Diego.

The NL Central leaders blew a six-run lead before rallying for their 18th victory in 21 games. A loss to the Padres in the series opener on Monday snapped a 10-game winning streak.

Brandon Phillips hit a tie-breaking solo shot in the seventh inning, off the final pitch by Jason Marquis (4-6), who had won his previous three starts.

Reds reliever Sean Marshall (4-3) got the win with two perfect innings.

Braves 7, Marlins 1

In Atlanta, Kris Medlen had a successful return to the rotation, guiding Atlanta past Miami and to its seventh straight win.

Medlen (2-1) allowed one run and one walk in five innings. He made his first start since 2010.

Brian McCann homered for the Braves, who closed within 2-1/2 games of Washington atop the NL East. In his past 19 games, McCann has nine homers and 20 RBIs.

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (8-10) gave up four runs and struck out six in five innings.

Pirates 5, Cubs 0

In Chicago, A.J. Burnett pitched a shutout, as Pittsburgh downed Chicago.

Burnett (13-3) just about stole the spotlight after the Cubs traded their ace pitcher Ryan Dempster to Texas just before the trade deadline. Burnett came close to a no-hitter, before allowing a single with two outs in the eighth.

His bid for a second career no-hitter and the sixth in the majors this season ended with two outs in the eighth.

Cardinals 11, Rockies 6

In Denver, Matt Holliday homered, doubled and drove in four runs to lead St. Louis over Colorado.

Cardinals starter Kyle Lohse (11-2) worked through an erratic outing, giving up five runs in six innings, taking his fifth consecutive decision in unconvincing style.

Rockies starter Jeff Francis (3-3) went four innings, his second-shortest outing, allowing five runs. Colorado dropped to 0-4 on their homestand.

Giants 4, Mets 1

In San Francisco, Matt Harvey's start to his major league career is giving the New York Mets hope that the future could be bright.

If only the present was so pretty.

Harvey struck out seven in six innings in his second straight solid outing, but the San Francisco Giants took advantage of a two-run error by shortstop Ruben Tejada to beat the Mets 4-1 on Tuesday night and snap a season-long five-game losing streak.

"I don't like to lose," said Harvey, who was drafted seventh overall in 2010.

Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Paul Goldschmidt homered in the first inning for the second straight game, Miguel Montero added a three-run shot and rookie Wade Miley pitched eight dominant innings for the Arizona Diamondbacks in an 8-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday night.

Miley (12-6) allowed three hits, struck out seven and walked one. The only run against the left-hander was a first-inning homer by Mark Ellis, who came in 6-for-11 against him.

Brewers 10, Astros 1

In Milwaukee After an impressive stint for the Houston Astros in June, starter Dallas Keuchel has taken a step backward.

Keuchel was charged with seven runs and seven hits with six walks in four-plus innings, and the Astros were pounded by the Milwaukee Brewers 10-1 on Tuesday night.

"I was battling all night," Keuchel said.

Mariners 7, Blue Jays 2

In Seattle, Dustin Ackley drove in three runs and Jason Vargas pitched seven strong innings to lead the Seattle Mariners to their sixth consecutive victory, 7-2 over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday night.

Vargas (12-7) allowed two runs and five hits. He walked one and struck out four.

The last time the Mariners won six consecutive games was May 18-23, 2011.

Angels 6, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Los Angeles' Albert Pujols hit two home runs to power the Angels to a 6-2 win over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday, further tightening the top of the National League West division.

Los Angeles moved within three games of Texas atop the NL West, with two games to go in this key series. Angels starter Jered Weaver (14-1) gave up two runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Orioles 11, Yankees 5

In New York, Chris Davis hit a go-ahead grand slam in a seven-run second inning as Baltimore rallied from five runs down to beat New York.

Yankees starter Ivan Nova (10-5) allowed a career-worst nine runs in five innings. New York tied a season-worst skid with four straight losses and made some dubious history in the process. According to STATS, LLC, the Yankees haven't led by five or more after the first inning and then trailed after the second since at least 1918.

Red Sox 4, Tigers 1, 5 innings

In Boston, Clayton Mortensen pitched 2 2-3 shutout innings after starter Josh Beckett left with back spasms, and Boston beat Detroit in a game halted by rain in the top of the sixth inning.

Detroit had the bases loaded with two outs when the tarp was rolled onto the field. The game was called off 1 hour, 45 minutes later, giving the Red Sox their fourth straight win and sending the Tigers to their fifth loss in six games.

Tigers ace Justin Verlander (11-7) gave up all four runs in the fourth inning.

White Sox 4, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, A.J. Pierzynski hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning and Chicago held on to edge Minnesota.

After Alex Rios singled off Jeff Gray (5-1), Pierzynski hit a pitch into the right field bleachers.

White Sox closer Addison Reed allowed an RBI single in the bottom of the ninth, but earned the save.

Royals 8, Indians 3

In Kansas City, Alcides Escobar drove in three runs as Kansas City downed Cleveland and snapped a five-game losing streak.

Escobar had two hits for his 34th multihit game, raising his average to a team-leading .307.

Royals starter Luke Hochevar (7-9) pitched six solid innings, giving up seven hits and striking out six.

Rays 8, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Athletics manager Bob Melvin is hoping his team can turn its fantastic July into stellar stretch run.

James Shields pitched a three-hitter, B.J. Upton drove in two runs and the Tampa Bay Rays broke out of their prolonged offensive slump to beat Oakland 8-0 on Tuesday night, slowing what has been the best month in A's franchise history.

Dempster to Rangers, Victorino to Dodgers, Pence to Giants

TEXAS (AP)—Baseball's haves picked up more players from the have-nots at Tuesday's trade deadline, when Ryan Dempster was dealt from the Chicago Cubs to the Texas Rangers and Shane Victorino, Hunter Pence and Jonathan Broxton all wound up on new teams.

Matt Garza, Josh Johnson and Joe Blanton stayed put for now as the window closed for clubs to make trades without having players pass through waivers.

Four days after the AL West rival Los Angeles Angels acquired former Cy Young Award winner Zack Greinke, the Rangers obtained Dempster for infielder Christian Villanueva and pitcher Kyle Hendricks. Texas also acquired catcher Geovany Soto from the Cubs for right-hander Jake Brigham.

"It's a great opportunity over there," Dempster said. "It's not going to be easy. There are a lot of teams out there that are really good. I think they have as good a chance as anybody."

Dempster, who will replace Roy Oswalt in the rotation, had power to block deals and refused to approve a trade to Atlanta last week.

"I just never said no," he explained. "The last few days, I had to give it a lot more thought to the teams I might possibly be traded to."

Dempster was 5-5 with a 2.25 ERA in 16 starts for the Cubs and can become a free agent after the season.

"He's a veteran. He's been through some wars before," said Rangers general manager Jon Daniels, who team has won two straight AL pennants but no World Series.

The faded Philadelphia Phillies, last in the NL East and their run five straight division titles all but over, sent Victorino to the Los Angeles Dodgers for right-handers Josh Lindblom and Ethan Martin and cash. They also shipped Pence to San Francisco for outfielder Nate Schierholtz, catching prospect Tommy Joseph and right-hander Seth Rosin.

Cincinnati received Broxton from Kansas City, also a cellar dweller.

"When you're in last place, you can try any damn thing," Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said. "You don't have nothing to lose."

The deals capped a busy two-week period that also saw Ichiro Suzuki, Hanley Ramirez, Anibal Sanchez and Francisco Liriano change teams as general managers assessed whether they had a chance to make this year's expanded 10-team playoffs or whether to focus on rebuilding for 2013.

After winning a franchise-record 102 games last year, the Phillies never recovered from Ryan Howard's stumble on the last out of last year's NL division series against St. Louis. Howard, the 2006 NL MVP, tore an Achilles tendon and didn't come off the disabled list until July 6. All-Star second baseman Chase Utley missed the first 76 games because of a chronic problem in both knees.

Pence is batting .271 with 17 homers and 59 RBIs this season. He fills a major need for the Giants, giving them a right-handed hitter with power.

Phelps swims into history with 19th medal

LONDON (AP)—Michael Phelps has always said he wanted to do something that no one has ever done before.

He's all by himself now, and ready to go for more.

The world's greatest swimmer cruised through the anchor leg of the 4x200-meter freestyle relay to earn his record 19th career Olympic medal and 15th gold on Tuesday night, etching a place in history as the most decorated Olympian of all time.

"It has been a pretty amazing career but we still have a couple races to go," he said.

Now his remaining four days in the pool at the London Games are all about putting that mark even further out of reach. Phelps has three events to go - the 200 individual medley, the 100 butterfly and the 4x100 medley relay.

He won't be racing for a medal on Wednesday, when he competes in the preliminaries and semifinals of the 200 IM.

The big race on Day 5 of the swimming competition will be the men's 100 freestyle. James "The Missile" Magnussen of Australia owns the leading time going into the final. Nathan Adrian of the U.S. is next on the list, followed by Cuba's Hanser Garcia.

Other top contenders are world record-holder Cesar Cielo of Brazil and Yannick Agnel of France.

Kosuke Kitajima will try to make some history of his own in the 200 breaststroke. The Japanese star could become the first male swimmer to win the same event at three consecutive Olympics, although he's a long shot after qualifying fifth-fastest for the final. Kitajima's earlier attempt at a three-peat in the 100 breast fell short.

Leading qualifier Kathleen Hersey goes for the first U.S. gold medal in the women's 200 butterfly since 2000, when Misty Hyman stunned Susie O'Neill in Sydney.

Hours after Phelps earned his 18th medal - a silver in the 200 fly - and his 19th with the relay gold, well-wishers ranging from soccer great Pele to Los Angeles Lakers star Pau Gasol to fellow Olympians and teammates past and present tweeted their congratulations.

"To be a part of that is something I'll tell my kids about," relay swimmer Ricky Berens said. "It's just incredible to go down with him."

Phelps tied the record for career medals held by Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina by finishing second in the 200 fly, getting out-touched by South African Chad le Clos at the wall. Phelps angrily tossed his cap in the water, a scowl on his face.

About an hour later, he returned with his teammates in tow for the relay. Ryan Lochte led off, followed by Conor Dwyer. Berens gave a lead of nearly 4 seconds to Phelps, who churned through the water and touched in a cumulative time of 6 minutes, 59.70 seconds for his first gold of these games.

When Phelps and the others huddled up before the relay, he told them he wanted "a big lead" going into his anchor leg and they delivered.

"I started smiling with like 20 meters to go, the first time I think I've ever done that in a race," he said. "I knew we had gotten it."

Phelps has 15 golds in his career, six more than anyone else, to go along with two silvers and two bronzes. Latynina won nine golds, five silvers and four bronzes from 1956-64.

"He's one of the toughest racers and one of the best swimmers ever to live," Lochte said. "It's pretty awesome."

In the stands, Phelps' mother, Debbie, and two sisters cheered his feat. Wearing his 19th medal during the victory stroll, Phelps stood on a plastic chair and reached up to take a small U.S. flag from them. With tears in her eyes, Debbie blew a kiss to her only son.

Phelps' night started out on a sour note in his signature event, one that is especially meaningful to his family since his sisters once swum it, too.

He hadn't lost the 200 fly at the Olympics or world championships since Sydney, when he finished fifth as an unknown 15-year-old.

Phelps, after leading the entire race, tried to glide into the wall instead of taking one more stroke. Le Clos took that extra stroke and beat Phelps by five-hundredths of a second.

United States' Michael Phelps poses with his gold medal for the men's 4x200-meter freestyle relay swimming final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

AP

Badminton teams face match-throwing probe

LONDON (AP)—Badminton officials launched disciplinary proceedings against four women's doubles pairs Wednesday for appearing to try and lose their matches at the London Olympics to secure a favorable draw, according to a British news agency.

Britain's Press Association said the Badminton World Federation issued a statement confirming the players face charges of "not using one's best efforts to win a match" and "conducting oneself in a manner that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport."

The federation did not respond to emails and phone calls late at night from The Associated Press seeking confirmation of the charges.

It was not immediately clear what sanctions the players, from China, South Korea and Indonesia, could face. They are due to compete in quarterfinals Wednesday afternoon.

World doubles champions Wang Xiaoli and Yu Yang of China and their South Korean opponents Jung Kyun-eun and Kim Ha-na were booed loudly by the crowd Tuesday after dumping serves into the net and making simple errors.

The longest rally in their first game was only four strokes. The umpire warned them and tournament referee Torsten Berg spoke to all four players but it had little effect.

Eventually, the Chinese women lost 21-14, 21-11 and both pairs were jeered off the court.

The teams had already qualified for the last 16, but the result ensured that the top-seeded Wang and Yu will avoid playing their No. 2-seeded Chinese teammates until the final.

The problem was repeated in the next women's doubles between South Korea's Ha Jung-eun and Kim Min-jung and Indonesia's Meiliana Jauhari and Greysia Polii. Both teams were also warned for deliberately losing points in a match the Koreans won 18-21, 21-14, 21-12. The capacity crowd vented their displeasure on them, too.

"If they play right, the Chinese team, this wouldn't happen," said South Korea head coach Sung Han-kook. "So we did the same because we don't want to play Korea. Nobody likes playing against strong players."

US gymnasts win first gold in team event since 1996

LONDON (AP)—For 16 years, the Magnificent Seven defined the U.S. women's Olympic gymnastics program, setting the standard by which every American team is judged.

There is gold. And there is everything else.

Now—finally—there is the team known as the "Fierce Five."

Jordyn Wieber. Gabby Douglas. McKayla Maroney. Aly Raisman. Kyla Ross.

Teenagers. Champions. And maybe—just maybe—the greatest team of all time.

"Others might disagree, the '96 team might disagree," coach John Geddert said. "But this is the best team. Difficulty-wise, consistency-wise, this is USA's finest."

It's certainly the world's fiercest.

Intimidating the rest of the eight-team field with an eye-popping vault set in which the Americans soared so high they may have been picked up on radar at Heathrow Airport, the U.S. stormed to an emphatic victory that put them atop the podium for the first time since Kerri Strug and company hobbled to gold in Atlanta.

Strug became a pixie-cut icon after her gusty one-legged vault sealing the country's first gold. The image of her being carried onto the medal stand by coach Bela Karolyi is a fixture in Olympic montages.

No drama this time. Just dominance. A good old-fashioned whipping by a program determined to return to the top. The U.S. posted a score 183.596, more than five points ahead of Russia and seven clear of Romania.

"They're just so far ahead of anyone else," said Britain's Rebecca Tunney. "They definitely deserve it."

They certainly earned it.

The Americans have spent the last nine months competing with a target on their back after running away with the title at last year's world championships.

It happened, however, on the other side of the planet. In a non-Olympic year no less. Russia was hobbled. The Romanians were a mess. And the Americans was still largely anonymous.

Not anymore. Not by a longshot.

Led by a rejuvenated Wieber, who shook off her disappointing performance in qualifying to compete with the tenacity that's become her trademark, the U.S. led after the first rotation and never trailed

US crushes Tunisia, 110-63

LONDON (AP)—Kobe Bryant's barely broken a sweat. LeBron James hasn't scored in double figures, and U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski has swapped lineups like he's trading Olympic pins.

After two games of the men's tournament, America's superteam has started slowly and showed some real vulnerability.

Maybe the world has a chance after all.

Maybe not.

Getting a jump start from its second unit after a less-than-inspiring first half by the starters, the U.S. turned on the burners after halftime and rolled to a 110-63 win over Tunisia on Tuesday night to improve to 2-0 in preliminary play - just as expected.

Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Love scored 16 points apiece and Kevin Durant added 13 for the Americans, who led by only 13 at halftime before outscoring Tunisia (0-2) 64-30 in a second half that became another highlight loop of alley-oop lobs, dunks and crowd-pleasing passes.

Krzyzewski began the second half with his reserves and Anthony, Love, Deron Williams, Russell Westbrook and Andre Iguodala responded with a 21-3 run that made it 67-36 and seemed to satisfy their coach, who didn't look all that happy with his team's effort when he left the floor at halftime.

"We told him, don't get worried," Anthony said. "We're all right."

But the Americans, who will face Nigeria on Thursday, haven't exactly hit their stride.

Bryant has been in early foul trouble both games and played just 21 minutes, about the same as 19-year-old Anthony Davis, who dunked his way to 12 points against Tunisia. The U.S. has also shown a tendency to rely too much on jump shots and didn't defend the perimeter well against Tunisia, which knocked down nine 3s.

It's tough to criticize a team winning by 37 points per game, but the U.S. team, heavily favored to win its second straight gold medal, has displayed enough flaws to keep Spain, Argentina and Brazil dreaming of Olympic glory.

"This isn't a sprint," said Krzyzewski, who canceled Wednesday's practice 11 hours before Tuesday's opening tip. "It's a longer race and there's a lot of things that have to be done before the medal round. I know people go quarter by quarter, minute by minute, that's not the way you develop a team.

"What did we get accomplished tonight? We won by almost 50 points against a team that really wanted to play hard against us."

The Americans had to work much harder than expected to make this one look easy.

They were only ahead by five points late in the first half, launching 3-pointers when they couldn't be stopped inside.

NMC Proa dominates DYS in exhibition

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NMC Proa outclassed DYS, 75-58, during an exhibition game played in Ayuda Network Inc.'s 20th Anniversary Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

A second-quarter juggernaut helped NMC Proa cruise past DYS, as the former scored 23 points against the latter's 9, turning a two-point lead, 10-8, to a big 33-17 halftime advantage.

The Edward Manalili-coached NMC Proa leaned on its balance offense in the second-period breakaway and played steady in the second half en route to the 17-point victory. John Capuyon had 6 points in the second quarter, Karlo De Leon, Brandon Regis, and Ethan Manalili added four apiece, Kobee Mendoza canned a triple, and Ivan Sanarez and Edilberto Javier contributed two points each.

DYS, which made only four field goals in the first period, continued to struggle in the second, drilling only three field goals and getting its three other points from the foul line. DYS picked up its scoring at the beginning of the second half, firing 15 points in the third canto, however NMC Proa still outgunned the former, 24-15, to pad the lead to 25, 57-32, with only one quarter left in the exhibition match.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
DYS' defenders hound NMC Proa's Kobee Mendoza, right, during their exhibition game in the Ayuda Network Inc.'s 20th Anniversary Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Again, coach Manalili drew contributions from every player he fielded in the game in the third period to keep the double-digit lead. Six of NMC Proa's eight players lit up the scoreboard in the third period to seize a huge lead, entering the fourth and final canto. Ethan Manalili had the biggest output in the third frame with his 8 points.

In the fourth period, DYS had his best offensive showing, sizzling for points 26 points, however it was not enough to overhaul NMC Proa's lead.

Ethan Manalili led NMC Proa with his 22 points, while De Leon and Capuyon also finished in twin digits with 15 and 10, respectively. Sanarez added 7, Mendoza posted 5, and Regis and Javier combined for 6.

NMC Proa's roster was composed of the core of the CNMI U17 National B Team that played in the Micronesian Basketball Tournament on Saipan in May this year and finished third in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last month.

The Abner Venus-coached DYS squad had majority of the players of the DYS/SMF team that won the U14 crown in the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup. U18 players Prince Factor and Irvin Malonzo were added to the roster and the former top-scored for DYS with 12 points. C.J. Morales and UFO scoring champion Djay Ong chipped in 11 apiece. U14 MVP J.P. Iglecias had 9 markers.

NMC Proa 75 – Manalili 22, De Leon 15, Capuyon 10, Sanarez 7, Mendoza 5, Regis 4, Javier 2.

DYS 58 – P. Factor 12, Ong 11, Morales 11, Iglecias 9, Espinosa 2, Malonzo 2, De Luna 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-8, 33-17, 57-32, 75-58.

Three-way tie in SBA Tuesday 8-ball league

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantriune.com
REPORTER

There is a three-way tie for the lead in Saipan Billiards Association's 15th Budweiser Open 8-Ball Tuesday League after the second round matchups.

SOS Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers and Oceanside Bar & Grill's IT&E Incredibles ran down the former lone-front-runner Triggers of Bammy's Restaurant & Bar last Tuesday for a three-way lock in the standings.

The three teams share identical 19-11 records, while Utopia Sports Bar's Blue Ice Hustlers (18-12) are in second place, trailing by just one game.

The IT&E Voyagers knocked down the Triggers, 11-4, on the road to open the door for them and the rest of the field in Tuesday's second round. The IT&E Incredibles secured a 9-6 home-win over Joe's Steakhouse's Docomo Pacific Home Boyz (13-17) to grab a share of the lead.

In other results, the Hustlers tapped out Yuichiros' Printing (12-18), 11-4, at Poseidon Bar & Grill, while Poseidon's Crazy 8 (13-17) grinded out an 8-7 road victory over 19th Hole Bar's Titans I (7-23).

Meanwhile, the Waterfront's Eight-It! jump started to an 11-4 victory over the 19th Hole Eagles for an early lead in SBA's Thursday League standings.

Close behind comes the 19th Hole's Titans II and Bammy's Equalizers, who took 9-6 wins over Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS and Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack,

Thursday league continues tonight with the Titans II hosting sister-team Eagles; the Equalizers welcoming Eight-It!; and Team SCS calling over Shark Attack.

Then on Tuesday, Crazy 8 meets the Triggers; the Docomo Home Boyz welcomes the Titans I; Blue Ice Hustlers host the IT&E Incredibles; and the IT&E Voyagers wave in Yuichiro's Printing.

3 CNMI

From Page 28

donia and other international competitions. Winners will be announced this October at the Council's general membership meeting in Wallis and Futuna.

Rafael Jones got the nomination after winning the 2011 Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Male Student Athlete of the Year Award. He took the coveted NMASA plum after having an outstanding 2011 season while competing in on and off-island events. The 17-year-old Saipan International School student won a couple of local junior tournaments and was named to the CNMI Junior Team.

He then ruled the boys U18 division of the 2011 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam and helped the Commonwealth beat Guam, Palau, and the Federates States of Micronesia for the overall title in NPQ.

With his first place finish in Guam, Jones qualified for the 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji were he made it all the way to the semifinals of the tough boys U18 singles division. The eldest son of John and Flor Jones also competed in Junior ITF events in Fiji last year and was selected to the Pacific Oceania Touring Team that joined several tournaments in Australia in January this year.

Bennett earned the nomination after clinching her fourth straight NMASA Female Athlete of the Year Award. She got NMASA's nod after her impressive performance in collegiate athletics competitions and her participation in the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships and the 2011 IAAF World Championships.

In the Oceania championship in Apia, Samoa, the 21-year-old Bennett had record-breaking races and claimed gold and bronze medals. The Commonwealth sprinter won the 400m race (57.66 seconds) in the Oceania meet and clinched the bronze and set both the CNMI and Micronesian records in the 100m (12.52 seconds) and 200m (25.67 seconds) runs.

Several months before her record runs in Samoa, Bennett suited up for the Boise State University in an indoor tournament and helped crush the Bronco's 23-year-old record in the 4x400m relay. Bennett and three others timed in at 3:44.64 to eclipse the 3:45.60 record of a BSU team in an indoor tournament in 1988.

The Kagman High School graduate also set a new CNMI mark (57.14 seconds) in the 400m during the 2011 Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

From Samoa, Bennett went to Daegu, Korea, to represent the CNMI to the World championships. She raced in the 100m run, timed in at 12.78 seconds, and was just one notch away from advancing to the second round. Bennett finished fifth on her heat and only the Top 4 qualified into the next round.

Joshua Jones, who is now in the mainland to start his collegiate baseball career, has a remarkable resume to boost his nomination for the Male Outstanding Athlete of the Year Award.

He is undoubtedly the CNMI's best pitcher last season, dominating local tournaments and then bringing his A game in New Caledonia where the Commonwealth won its first gold medal in the Pacific Games.

The lefty lifted the CNMI to an 8-4 victory against Guam in the finals. Jones, who was the Commonwealth's relief pitcher in their first meeting against Guam and lost the opener, got his vengeance when he came in to the mound in the third inning and gave up only two runs against the CNMI's fiercest rival.

After the baseball competition, Jones was the unofficial MVP after posting a 5-0 win-loss record, 30. 2 innings pitch, and 42 strikeouts. He allowed only two earned runs and had eight base on balls for an impressive .111 ERA

Jones while playing for the Northern Yankees also led in strikeouts (62 in just three games) in the ongoing Saipan Major League before he left two months ago to play college baseball in Kansas.

The 19-year-old pitcher also played for Kagman High School's varsity team in both basketball and volleyball.

Meanwhile, NMASA had three other nominations (administrator, coach, and team of the year) in the Pacific Awards and nominees names and their achievements will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

WAIT-AND-SEE

From Page 28

hoping to resume action at the Gualo Rai court. It rained almost the entire day and at press time the 6pm start of the Blue Haus-Mawati tiff was delayed as league officials and volunteers were drying up the court. Also last night, Docomo was scheduled to face Looban in the second game.

Wit the CNMI Emergency Management Office reporting that "isolated thunderstorms will continue through Friday night with southwest winds persisting through the weekend," teams which have yet to play in the DLX caging will have to wait for a better weather to start their respective campaigns in the 18-team league.

The 18 teams battling for the championship are divided into two groups. Pool A has the KFC/Taco Bell, San Antonio, Mawati, Blue Haus, Zhailas, Highway Express, Playboy, MBI, and Hip Hop, while Anjie's Boys, QQ, Freestyl, LD Prime, Docomo, Looban, Gualo Rai, 360 Church, and San Roque are in Pool B.

360 Church and San Roque are scheduled to play in tomorrow's curtain raiser at 6pm, while Playboy is set to debut against MBI in the late night match. Then in the first game on Saturday, Hip Hop will be up for a tough test against San Antonio. Anjie's Boys will also have its second game this Saturday as it faces Gualo Rai at 8pm.

Each team will play eight games in the regular season and cuts will be made, however, the number of squads making it to the playoffs will be determined later. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

SHOTTAS

From Page 28

ers B were set to challenge Rollers 16B in the first game, while the Cougars were to square off with Docomo Red.

Action in the U17 will continue on Aug. 6 with the Cougars running into Loving Hands at 5:30pm and the Rollers Basketball Cub's Agape clashing with Docomo Red at 6:30pm.

Shottas 41 –Hossain 10, R. Babauta 9, Manglona 7, Caro 7, Z. Babauta 5, Norita 2.

R-Rebels 30 – Ogumoro 16, Lisua 8, Litulumar 2, Chin 2 R. Norita 2.

Scoring by halves: 13-12, 41-30

RBC

From Page 28

the bad news in stride and have focused their sights instead on the upcoming Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League season.

They have been conducting their routine practices at the Garapan court and are playing in various local summer leagues as well, such as the Docomo Pacific 3rd Youth Summer League, and are helping out with the group's RECTIFY Summer youth camp.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	60	43	.583	–
Baltimore	55	49	.529	5 1/2
Tampa Bay	54	50	.519	6 1/2
Boston	53	51	.510	7 1/2
Toronto	51	52	.495	9

Central Division

Chicago	56	47	.544	–
Detroit	54	50	.519	2 1/2
Cleveland	50	53	.485	6
Minnesota	44	59	.427	12
Kansas City	42	60	.412	13 1/2

West Division

Texas	59	43	.578	–
Los Angeles	57	47	.548	3
Oakland	56	47	.544	3 1/2
Seattle	49	57	.462	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	61	41	.598	–
Atlanta	59	44	.573	2 1/2
New York	50	54	.481	12
Miami	47	56	.456	14 1/2
Philadelphia	46	57	.447	15 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	62	41	.602	–
Pittsburgh	59	44	.573	3
St. Louis	55	48	.534	7
Milwaukee	47	56	.456	15
Chicago	43	59	.422	18 1/2
Houston	35	70	.333	28

West Division

San Francisco	56	47	.544	–
Los Angeles	56	49	.533	1
Arizona	53	51	.510	3 1/2
San Diego	44	61	.419	13
Colorado	37	64	.366	18

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chamolinian/Budweiser Softball League Finals

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Sakudi's Eileen Babauta serves up an outside pitch during their title game against the 670 Babes in the women's division of the Chamolian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Slow-pitch League last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Natibu players accept runner-up honors in the awards ceremony.

Sakudi's Kikki Aldan unloads a big swing.

670 Babes' Pauline Camacho chucks the ball all the way back to the pitcher from centerfield.

670 Babes pitcher Semirina Simram whips the ball over to first base.

Your Balls' JP Lizama is welcomed by his teammates at the plate after smashing a game-tying home run in the last inning of the men's finals against Natibu.

670 Babes' Popo Tudela rears back for an incoming pitch.

Natibu's Ton Benavente follows through on a nice hit late in the men's finale.

Sakudi's Juljen Ngeskebei, back left, catches 670 Babes' Catalina Dela Cruz in a double play.

Man Amigos players pose with the pennant trophy.

Your Balls' Vince Sablan Jr. jacks a walk-off home run for the men's title.

Phelps swims into history with 19th Olympic medal

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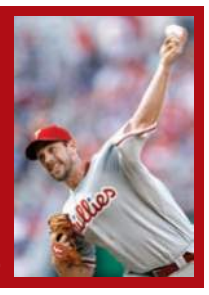
Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lee steers Phillies past Nationals, 8-0



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3 CNMI athletes nominated in Pacific Awards

Joshua Jones

Bennett

Rafael Jones

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has nominated three CNMI athletes to the 4th annual Pacific Sports Awards.

Tennis' Rafael Jones is nominated for the Outstanding Junior Athlete of the Year, while baseball's Joshua Jones and athletics' Yvonne Bennett were the CNMI's candidates for the Male and Female Outstanding Athletes of the Year.

The Pacific Sports Awards is Pacific Games Council's annual recognition ceremony for athletes, teams, and officials from the 22 member-Pacific Games Association. This year's nominees should have recorded notable performances from July1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 or during the Pacific Games in New Cale-

See 3 CNMI on Page 26

RBC junior teams miss goodwill games in Manila

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Rollers Basketball Club head coach Joe Diaz regretfully announced that their two junior squads failed to compete in the 2012 Manila-Pacific Rim Goodwill Games.

The competition started in the Philippines last Thursday, and according to Diaz, the teams that were scheduled to participate in the U15A and U14B divisions missed the trip due to lack of chaperones.

"We actually had all of our players ready to go, but unfortunately the parent chaperones could not go due to problems on travel documents," Diaz said.

Majority of the parents of the Rollers players are non-US citizens thus they are required to seek permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office to go in and out of the island and the process takes time.

"We had about 20 kids participating in the weeklong event and only me and my wife can go with them. Keeping track of everyone 24-7 is simply too much responsibility and is not worth the risk," added Diaz.

According to Diaz, although the players are greatly disappointed in missing the opportunity, they still took

See RBC on Page 26

Shottas win in rain-hampered Docomo caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Heavy rains have slowed down the 2012 Docomo Pacific Summer Youth Basketball League's game schedule, as only one match finished last week.

Shottas won the lone game completed at the Garapan Basketball Court, prevailing over the R-Rebels, 41-30, in last Friday's U25 division match.

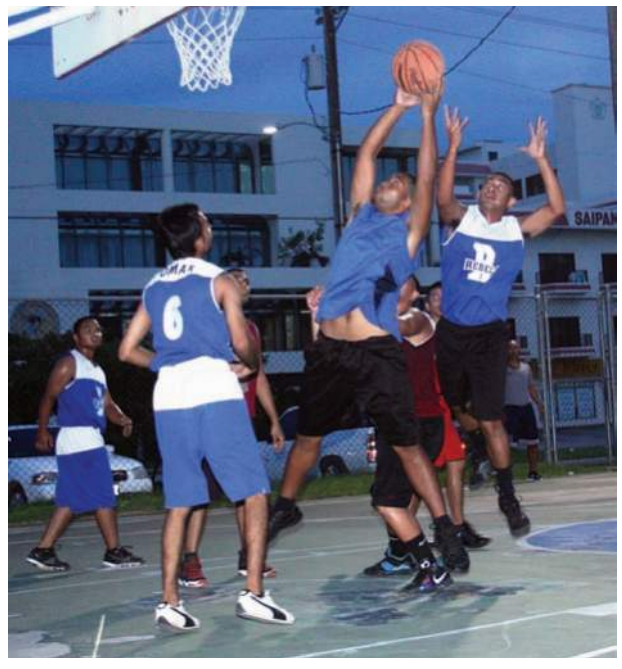
Shottas took a slim 13-12 edge at halftime, thanks to a trio of three-pointers and pair of free throws from Eugene Manglona. Two of the Shottas treys came from Raymond Babauta.

R-Rebels remained in contention after the first half, as Trevor Ogumoro also drained a pair of treys to lead all scorers at midpoint with his 8 markers. He added 8 more, but lacked support from his teammates in the second half, while Shottas bench came out strong down the homestretch.

Seven big points by Sahj Hossain headed a handful of other contributors, and their rivals were unable to hit from long range for a possible comeback.

Hossain finished with a team-high 10 points, Ogumoro topped the chart with 16. Five R-Rebels players were held to just two points or less in the game.

Meanwhile, the opening U25 pairing last Friday has been rescheduled for 5:30pm tonight, and from there, the season continues tomorrow with the Rollers taking on Safety 1st at 5:30pm and Shottas colliding with GVH at 6:30pm.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Shottas player, center, tries for a second chance basket after a missed shot against the R-Rebels during their U25 game in the Docomo caging last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In the U17 division, Monday's matches were washed out and were reportedly rescheduled for last night. IT&E's Roll-

See SHOTTAS on Page 26

Wait-and-see mode for DLX caging

Fourteen teams are still waiting to debut in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League as rain halted action at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

So far, only two games were completed in the DLX caging with Brgy. San Antonio beating defending champion KFC/Taco Bell, 73-65, during the league opener last Saturday and Anjie's Boys edging QQ Rent A Car in the second game last weekend, 71-68.

Last Monday, four more teams were scheduled to play their first game in the second edition of the DLX caging this year, however rained caused suspension of the doubleheader. Freestyl was set to debut over LD Prime in the 6pm match, while Zhailas was slated to challenge Highway Express in the second game.

Yesterday, four more squads were

See WAIT-AND-SEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KFC/Taco Bell's Joon Lee drives against two Brgy. San Antonio defenders during the opening game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.